

State Vaccine Exemption Laws By State, Part I

Alabama – Religious and Medical, with restrictive religious process set by Administrative Rule

- Vaccine requirements for public and private K-12 schools are provided in state statute.
- Vaccine requirements for child care above 2 months of age are provided in Administrative Code.
- Written religious objection to required vaccinations must be submitted to local health department for printing on Department Form.
- Medical exemption printed on Department form obtained through state immunization information system [ImmPRINT](#).
- Department requires in-person counseling, watching a video about dangers of NOT vaccinating, signing Immunization Action Coalition form with inaccurate statements, and exemptions tracked by state.

State Statute - Code of Alabama; Title 16 Education; Chapter 30 Immunization of School Children; Section 16-30-3. Exceptions to Chapter.

[Code of Alabama 16-30-3](#)

- (1) **Religious exemption:** “In the absence of an epidemic or immediate threat thereof, the parent or guardian of the child shall object thereto in writing on the grounds that such immunization or testing conflicts with his religious tenets and practices; or
- (2) **Medical exemption:** “Certification by a *competent medical authority* providing individual exemption from the required immunization or testing is presented [to] the admissions officer of the school.”

[Administrative Code 420-6-1-.02](#). General Provisions -

- (1) Requires Certificate of Immunization for each public and private K-12 pupil for specific diseases listed in [420-6-1-.03](#).
- (2) The Department of Human Resources requires all children age two months and older attending any child care center/home to present a Certificate of Immunization for specific diseases listed in [420-6-1-.03](#).
- (3) Requires the Certificate of immunization to be on the form approved by the Alabama Department of Public Health (printed from the [ImmPRINT state IIS system](#) and referred to as a Blue Card).
- (4) Requires the written objection from the parent or guardian of a student or child based on religious tenets and practices (religious exemption) to be submitted in person by the parent or guardian to the County Health Department for issuance of a “Certificate of Religious Exemption” from the required immunizations or testing. (**This process is restrictive**, requires parents to jump through hoops, watch a [vaccine indoctrination video](#), sit through health department “counseling,”

sign the Immunization Action Coalition’s [“Decision to Not Vaccinate My Child”](#) form that provides inaccurate and self-incriminating language, and then finally be awarded your Certificate of religious exemption.)

A licensed physician can provide an individual exemption from the required immunizations or testing on a “Certificate of Medical Exemption.”

Both Medical and Religious Exemption forms will be approved by the Alabama Department of Public Health (printed from the ImmPRINT state immunization information system) and accepted in lieu of Certificate of Immunization.

Additional note: *Only vaccine providers (vendors) were given access to ImmPRINT, which made it difficult for DOs, NPs, Chiropractors, or holistic practitioners to provide a child with a Certificate of Medical Exemption. This process was recently (2024) improved to allow non-vendor practitioners access to download the Exemption Forms through [ImmPRINT](#), but I do not know if this was a permanent change or temporary for one individual health care provider.*

Alaska – Religious and Medical, with some restrictions set by Administrative Rule for both exemption types.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to child care, public, and nonpublic K-12.
- Medical and religious exemptions are provided on Department of Health and Social Services form only and submitted to child’s school or child care.
- Religious must state that immunization conflicts with tenets and practices of the church or religious denomination of which the parent is a member
- Medical must be signed by MD, DO, ANP, or PA

State Statutes – Alaska Statutes; Title 14. Education, Libraries, and Museums; Chapter 30. Pupils and Educational Programs for Pupils; Section 14.30.075. Physical examinations for teachers.

[Alaska Statutes \(2024\) Section 14.30.125](#). Immunization –

Authorizes the Commissioner of Health to judge whether it is necessary for the welfare of the children or the general public in an area that the governing body of the school district shall require the children attending to be immunized against the diseases the Commissioner of Health may specify.

(Exemptions were written into State Statute but repealed in 1966)

Administrative Code – Alaska Administrative Code (AAC); Title 7. Health and Social Services; Chapter 57. Child Care Facilities Licensing; Section 7 AAC 57.550. Health.

[Alaska Administrative Code 7 AAC 57.550](#) (child care) and [4 AAC 06.055](#) (school) [7 AAC 57.550](#) (Child Care)

Requires an Immunization Certificate, immunization record, or exemption.

Exemption options, Medical and Religious:

- (1) A form prescribed by the Department of Health and Social Services and signed by a medical doctor (M.D.), doctor of osteopathy (D.O.), advanced nurse practitioner (ANP), or physician assistant (PA) licensed in this state;

The form must state that the immunizations would be injurious to the health of the child or members of the child's family or household; or

- (2) A form prescribed by the department and signed by the child's parent or guardian, affirming that immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of the church or religious denomination of which the parent or guardian is a member.

[4 AAC 06.055](#) (school)

Requires certain vaccines for all public and nonpublic schools offering pre-elementary through 12th grade.

Exemption options, Medical and Religious:

- (1) A statement signed by a doctor of medicine (M.D.), doctor of osteopathy (D.O.), advanced nurse practitioner (ANP), or physician assistant (PA) licensed in this state stating the immunizations would be injurious to the health of the child or members of the child's family or household; or
- (2) An affidavit signed by the child's parent or guardian affirming that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of the church or religious denomination of which the applicant is a member.

Arizona – Personal Belief and Medical, with some restrictions

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to child care and public and nonpublic K-12.
- Some restrictions on who can write a medical exemption for school and child care (physician or nurse practitioner only).
- Some restrictive language on religious exemption for child care (tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination).
- Parent submits a signed letter or signed physician note directly to the school or child care.

State Statute: Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS); Title 15 Education; Chapter 8 School Attendance; Article 6 School Immunization; Section 15-872. Proof of Immunization and Section 15-873. Exemptions.

[ARS §15-872](#). Proof of Immunization.

Requires pupils attending any "school," [defined](#) as a public, private, or parochial school that offers K-12 instruction, to submit documentary proof of immunization to the school administrator, unless the pupil is exempted from immunization requirements.

Immunization requirements are prescribed by Department Rule by the Director of Public Health and Safety.

This section of Statute prohibits HPV & COVID-19 from being required for school attendance and establishes that any immunization must be prescribed by rule and

adopted pursuant to subsection A. of this section before it can be required for in-person school attendance.

State Statute [ARS §15-873](#). Exemptions.

Personal Belief and Medical:

- (1) The parent or guardian of the pupil submits a signed statement to the school administrator stating that the parent or guardian has received information about immunizations provided by the Department of Health Services and understands the risks and benefits and the potential risks of nonimmunization and that due to personal beliefs, the parent or guardian does not consent to the immunization of the pupil.
- (2) The parent or guardian submits a written certification signed by the parent or guardian and by a physician or a registered nurse practitioner, that states that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the pupil's health and that indicates the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that precludes immunization.

Administrative Code: Arizona Administrative Code (AAC); Title 9 Health Services; Chapter 6. Department of Health Services – Communicable Diseases and Infestations; Rule 9-6-702 required immunizations and Rule 9-6-706 exemptions.

[9 AAC 6 R9-6-702](#) (page 68). Required Immunizations for Child Care or School Entry. Prescribes certain vaccines and doses required for school and child care.

[9 AAC 6 R9-6-706](#) (page 70). Exemptions from Immunizations - Includes rules for exemptions for schools and child care.

School – Personal belief exemption must include basic information (child's name, DOB, parent's name), which immunizations they are requesting the exemption from based on personal belief, and a signature by the parent or guardian.

Medical exemption

Child care – Religious belief. A child is exempt from the immunization requirements for religious beliefs (as authorized in ARS Section 36-883(C)) if the child's parent or guardian submits to the child care a statement of exemption for religious beliefs, including: basic info (child's name, DOB, parent's name), which immunization they are requesting the exemption from based on religious beliefs, and the signature of the child's parent.

The religious belief exemption for child care prescribed in State Statute ARS 36-883 (C) requires exemptions for children whose parents object on the ground that it conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized church or religious denomination of which the parent or child is an adherent or member.

School and Childcare – Medical exemption. A child is exempt if the child's parent submits to a school or child care a certificate of medical exemption that contains the following:

1. Parent's name;
2. Child's name;
3. Child's DOB;

4. Immunizations from which the child's parent is requesting an exemption;
5. A statement that the parent is requesting a medical exemption according to ARS Section 15-873(A)(2);
6. Statements from a physician or registered nurse practitioner that:
 - a. The immunizations specified may be harmful to the child's health;
 - b. Indicate the specific nature of the medical condition or circumstance that precludes immunization;
 - c. Indicate whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary; and
 - d. If the medical exemption is temporary, provide the date the medical exemption ends.
7. The signature of the physician or registered nurse practitioner; and
8. The signature of the child's parent and the date signed.

Arkansas –Religious, Philosophical, and Medical Exemptions, with very restrictive exemption process through State Board of Health rules.

- Medical, Religious, and Philosophical exemptions are available for childcare, public and private schools, and colleges and universities.
- Medical, Religious, and Philosophical exemption applications must be notarized and completed annually through the Department of Health.
- Must complete an “educational component” developed by the department on the “risks and benefits of vaccination.”
- Students can be removed from school, childcare, and college/university for at least 21 days or longer during an outbreak at the discretion of the Department of Health if they are not “fully vaccinated.”
- Medical exemptions are issued by the State Medical Director of the Immunization Section. Statements from private physicians are not accepted by schools or childcare facilities without the accompanying letter issued by the Medical Director.

State Statute – Arkansas Code Annotated; Title 6. Education; Subtitle 2. Elementary and Secondary Education Generally; Chapter 18. Students; Subchapter 7. Health; Section 6-18-702. Immunization.

[State Statute ACA §6-18-702](#). Immunization.

Requires vaccines for public or private K-12 schools and childcare facilities for certain diseases, with authorization for the State Board of Health to add other vaccine requirements, as evidenced by a certificate of a licensed physician or a public health department acknowledging the immunization.

(d) authorizes the State Board of Health to promulgate rules so that all exemptions provided by this section have minimal effect on health and safety of all children attending childcare or school, including required tracking of children with exemptions in order to take action in the event of an outbreak or epidemic.

Authorizes only the health department is authorized to grant exemptions provided by this section.

Exemptions:

- (1) Medical – a local health authority or a licensed physician may deem a child to have a physical disability that contraindicates vaccination. The Certificate of exemption is issued by the State Health Officer; or
- (2) Religious or Philosophical Beliefs – the parent or guardian is required to complete an annual application process developed in the rules of the Department of Health for medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions, including, but not limited to:
 - (i) A notarized statement requesting a religious, philosophical, or medical exemption from the Department of Health by the parents or legal guardian of the child regarding the objection;
 - (ii) Completion of an educational component developed by the Department of Health that includes information on the risks and benefits of vaccination;
 - (iii) An informed consent form from the parents or guardian that includes a signed statement of refusal to vaccination based on the Department of Health's Refusal to Vaccinate form; and
 - (iv) A signed statement of understanding that the unimmunized child may be removed from day care or school during an outbreak if not fully vaccinated; and the child shall not return until the outbreak has been resolved and the department approves the return to school.

*A child whose sibling (whole blood or half blood) had a serious adverse reaction to the pertussis antigen, which resulted in a total permanent disability, is exempt from the pertussis vaccination.

Provides a financial penalty of \$25.00 to \$100.00 per violation of this section or rules.

Administrative Rule. [Arkansas State Board of Health; Rules and regulations pertaining to immunization requirements.](#) Same rules as stated in statute.

California – Medical only, restrictive

- [SB 277](#); Effective date July 1, 2016, removed religious and personal belief exemption laws and left Medical exemptions only.
- [SB 276](#) & [SB 714](#): Effective date January 1, 2019,
- Vaccine requirements apply to all child care, public and private K-12, and any home-based private school with classroom-based instruction.
- Requires all new medical exemptions to be submitted and issued electronically through the California Immunization Registry – Medical Exemption system (CAIR-ME);
- Allows the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to review and revoke exemptions if they are not consistent with CDC/ACIP guidelines, are issued by

physicians with high volumes of exemptions, or come from providers disciplined by the Medical Board; and

- Requires all exemptions to be renewed when students enter Kindergarten, 7th grade, or transfer schools.

State Statute –

[Health and Safety Code 120325](#) requires certain immunizations for age groups.

Authorizes the Department of Health and Safety to adopt vaccine requirements for other diseases deemed appropriate by the department in consideration with the recommendations of the ACIP, HHS, AAP, and AAFP.

(c) Exemptions for medical reasons:

[120372](#) (post January 1, 2021): requires the department to develop and make available an electronic, standardized, statewide medical exemption certification form that shall be transmitted from the licensed physician and surgeon directly to the department's California Immunization Registry (CAIR). The form will be printed, signed, and submitted directly to the school or institution where the child will attend.

The Form must include the following:

- (A) The name, California medical license number, business address, and telephone number of the physician and surgeon who issued the medical exemption, and of the primary care physician of the child, if different from the physician who issued the exemption.
- (B) The name of the child, name and address of the parent, and name and address of the child's school or other institution.
- (C) A statement certifying that the physician and surgeon have conducted a physician examination and evaluation of the child.
- (D) Whether the physician and surgeon is the child's primary care physician. If not, an explanation of why the issuing physician and not the primary care physician is filling out the medical exemption form.
- (E) How long the physician and surgeon has been treating the child
- (F) A description of the medical basis for which the exemption for each individual immunization is sought. Each specific immunization is required to be listed separately, and space on the form is provided to allow for the inclusion of descriptive information for each immunization for which the exemption is sought.
- (G) Whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary. The date of expiration is required if it is temporary. A temporary exemption shall not exceed one year. All medical exemptions shall not extend beyond the grade span, as defined in Section 120370.
- (H) An authorization for the department to contact the issuing physician and surgeon for purposes of this section and for the release of records related to the medical exemption to the department, the Medical Board of California, and the Osteopathic Medical Board of California.
- (I) A certification by the issuing physician and surgeon that the statements and information contained in the form are true.

California Code of Regulations: (Administrative Rules) Title 17 Public Health; Division 1. State Department of Health Services; Chapter 4. Preventive Medical Service; Subchapter 8. Immunization against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, etc.; Article 2. Requirements for admission and continued attendance.

[17 CA ADC §6050](#). Conditional Admission with Temporary Medical Exemption.

[17 CA ADC §6051](#). Unconditional Admission with Permanent Medical Exemption. (same requirements as laid out in state statute)

Colorado –Restrictive Nonmedical and Restrictive Medical exemptions.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to child care, public, and private K-12 schools. Requirements also apply to nonpublic home-based educational programs if the student attends a school for part of the day.
- Higher education has MMR vaccine requirement with Medical and nonmedical exemptions in state statute.
- Nonmedical exemptions must be signed by specific physician types or submitted with a completed online vaccine risk/benefits education module.
- Medical exemptions do not expire unless the student transfers to a new school or their personal information changes.
- Medical exemptions must be signed by an Advanced Practice Nurse (APN), a physician (MD or DO), or a Physician Assistant (PA).
- Medical Exemption Certificates are offered on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) Website for download, see [HERE](#).
- Medical exemption requires the provider to list medical contraindications for each vaccine declined from a list of “acceptable contraindications and precautions” provided by the CDC. *The link for this page is broken. The link address is <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html>. The CDC website currently says that this info has been moved, and the links provided for reference do not include this list of “acceptable contraindications.”*

State Statute – Colorado Revised Statutes; Title 25. Public Health and Environment; Article 4. Disease Control; Part 9. School Entry Immunization; Section 25-4-903. Exemptions from immunization.

(Colorado uses Lexis.com for their state statute online lookup tool)

[CRS §25-4-903](#): Exemptions from Immunization:

(2)(a) a child is exempt by submitting to the school a [certificate of medical exemption](#) from a licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating that the physical condition of the child is such that specified vaccines would endanger the student’s life or health or are medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions; or

(2)(b) a child is exempt by submitting to the school a [completed certificate of completion of the online education module](#) or a completed certificate of nonmedical exemption (**must be signed by a immunizing provider: MD, DO, APN, or PA**) signed

by one parent, an emancipated student, or a student 18 years of age or older, that the parent, guardian, or student is an adherent to a religious belief whose teachings are opposed to immunizations or has a personal belief that is opposed to immunizations.

- [Beginning 2021-2022](#) school year, all nonmedical exemptions must be signed by an “immunizing provider: an MD, DO, APN (Advanced Practice Nurse), or PA (physician assistant);
- OR must be accompanied by a certificate of completion of the Online Immunization Education Module that teaches the benefits of vaccines and the risks of NOT vaccinating. This module takes about 20 minutes to complete and parents can download the Certificate of completion needed to obtain a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption from the state Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
- This must be renewed annually for all public, private, and parochial K-12 students.
- Child care (daycare) and preschool students must file nonmedical exemptions at 2, 4, 6, 12, and 18 months of age. Each exemption expires when the next set of vaccines are due or when the child enrolls in Kindergarten. Vaccine requirements are based on the ACIP immunization schedule linked [HERE](#).
- Read more about the CDPHE Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption (NME) [HERE](#).
- Students with an immunization exemption on file may be kept out of a child care facility or school during a disease outbreak. The length of time will vary depending on the type of disease and the circumstances of the outbreak.
- Colorado law [§25-4-902](#) requires all students attending any school or child care to be vaccinated against certain diseases and applies to all public, private, and parochial Kindergarten, elementary, and secondary schools through 12th grade, colleges or universities, and child care facilities licensed by the state, including child care centers, school-aged child care centers, preschools, day camps, resident camps, day treatment centers, family child care homes, foster care homes, and Head Start programs.

Code of Colorado Regulations (CCR) (Administrative Rule) Department of Public Health and Environment; Disease Control and Public Health Response Division. Found at the Secretary of State website: [HERE](#)

[6 CCR 1009-2](#). The infant immunization program and immunization of students attending school.

III. Exemptions from Immunization (page 4 of 12) Discusses the rules outlined above regarding A. Medical exemption and B. Nonmedical exemption.

Connecticut – Restrictive Medical Exemption only, tracked by Department of Public Health.

- Vaccine requirements for all public & private K-12 and licensed child care.

- Higher education requirements for certain vaccines with limited/grandfathered religious belief exemption, history of disease, and medical exemption.
- Sample Medical Exemption Certificate for Required Immunizations: [HERE](#).
- Provider must choose from specific contraindications and precautions listed on the form for each vaccine they are exempting the student from receiving and whether that contraindication or precaution is temporary or permanent.
- *All medical exemptions that were issued on or after July 1, 2021, must be entered in the [Department of Public Health Medical Exemption Portal](#) established to collect medical exemption information from the medical exemption form.
- *Effective April 28, 2021, religious exemptions were removed from state law by [Public Act 21-6. \(HB 6423\)](#)
- All “catch-up” vaccine schedules are required to be spaced and timed based on the [CDC recommendations for the minimum interval time frame](#) for each of the required immunizations, but, in addition, shall be administered no later than 30 days after said minimal interval time period has occurred. *(This CDC page regarding the recommended catch-up schedule was updated July 2, 2025.)* See Connecticut Department of Public Health Schedule for In Process Required School Immunizations document [HERE](#).

State Statute

Connecticut General Statutes; Title 10a State System of Higher Education; Chapter 185b Constituent Units; Section 10a-155. Required immunizations for college students.

[§10a-155. Required immunizations for college students.](#)

Requires measles, rubella, mumps, and varicella vaccine requirements for each full-time or matriculating student born after December 31, 1956.

(b) provides exemptions for the following reasons:

1. a student presents a certificate signed by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating that such vaccination is medically contraindicated;
2. a student presented a statement prior to April 28, 2021, that such immunization is contrary to the student’s beliefs; or
3. a student presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating that the student has had a confirmed case of such disease;
4. the student is enrolled exclusively in a program for which students do not congregate on campus for classes; or
5. a student graduated from a public or nonpublic high school in this state in 1999 or later and was not exempt from the MMR vaccine and is thus exempt from the MMR vaccine requirement.

[Connecticut General Statutes \(k-12\)](#); Title 10 Education and Culture; Chapter 169 School Health and Sanitation; Section 10-204a. Required immunizations; temporary waiver.

[§10-204a](#). Required immunizations. Temporary waiver.

- a. Requires certain vaccines for school attendance for public and nonpublic schools.
- a. (1) (B) exempts students enrolled in a preschool program who, prior to April 28, 2021, were exempt from the requirements of this section for religious reasons presented on a [form](#) prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health and signed by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse; or
- a. (2) exempts students who present a form prescribed by the commissioner signed by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse stating that the required vaccination is medically contraindicated because of the physical condition of the child; or
- a. (3) exempt from the measles, mumps, or rubella vaccine requirements if the child presents a certificate from a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse or director of health in child's present or previous town of residence stating that the child had a confirmed case of such disease; or
- a. (4) exempt from haemophilus influenzae type B if the child has passed their 5th birthday; or
- a. (5) exempt from pertussis if the child has passed their 6th birthday.

[Connecticut Statutes \(Child care\)](#); Title 19a Public Health and Well-Being; Chapter 368a Department of Public Health; Section 19a-87b. License required for family child care homes; etc.

[Conn Gen. Stat. §19a-87b](#). License required for family child care homes; etc.

- (a) (f) requires the commissioner to adopt regulations to ensure family child care homes meet certain requirements, including (2) vaccine requirements.
- (b) (g) exempts children from child care and school vaccine requirements who present a certificate in a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Public Health, signed by a physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse that the required immunizations are medically contraindicated; or in the case of a child enrolled in K-12 prior to April 28, 2021, are contrary to the religious belief of the child or the parents.

[Connecticut Statutes](#); Title 19a Public Health and Well-Being; Chapter 368a Department of Public Health; Section 19a-7f Child immunization standard of care and programs.

[Conn. Gen. Stat. §19a-7f](#). Child immunization standard of care and programs.

- (a) Requires the Commissioner of Public Health to determine the standard of care for immunization for the children of the state to be based on the recommended schedules for active immunization for normal infants and children published by the National Center for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

Administrative Rule

There are no specific DPH regulations regarding vaccine exemptions, but there are DPH-issued directives and guidance on the DPH website: [HERE](#)

Delaware –Religious and Medical exemptions, somewhat restrictive medical.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to child care, preschool, and public and private K-12.
- MMR requirement for higher education, with religious and medical exemptions provided.
- Medical exemptions are required to be reviewed and considered for approval by the Delaware Division of Public Health.
- Religious exemptions are not restrictive in language, but must be notarized and submitted to the school, and the school is required to offer information regarding the benefits of vaccinating and the risks of NOT vaccinating.
- Exempt students are temporarily excluded from school in the event the Division of Public Health declares an outbreak of a “vaccine-preventable disease” or determines the student has had or is at risk of having an exposure to a “vaccine-preventable disease,” and the division determines the duration of exclusion.

State Statute

Delaware Code, Title 14 Education; Chapter 1. Department of Education; Subchapter II. Powers and Duties; §131. Public school enrollees’ immunization program-exemptions.

[14 Del. C. §131](#) Public school enrollees’ immunization program; exemptions.

(a) requires the Department of Education in consultation with the Division of Public Health, to adopt rules and regulations regarding the following:

(5) provision for exemption from required immunization for an enrollee (student) upon a written statement from a physician (Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathy) stating that the enrollee should not receive the prescribed immunization/s because of the reasonable certainty of a reaction detrimental to that person. The medical exemption may be subject to review and approval by the Division of Public Health. A history of clinical illness of measles or rubella shall not be accepted as a cause for exemption.

(6) provision for exemption from the immunization requirement for an enrollee whose parents or legal guardian, because of individual religious beliefs, reject the concept of immunization.

Such a request shall be supported by the affidavit set forth in statute: See statute [HERE](#).

Must be notarized.

(7) Requires the Division to provide a provision that, in the event of an outbreak, or the exempt student is at risk of having an exposure to a “vaccine-preventable disease,” the medical and religious exemptions will expire and the student will be temporarily excluded from attendance at any public school.

Administrative Code –

Title 14 Education; Chapter 800 Health and Safety; §804. Immunizations.

[14 DE Admin. Code §804.](#)

7.0 exemption from immunization

7.1.1 Medical exemptions required to be considered based on a written statement from a physician (MD or DO) stating that immunization is medically contraindicated.

7.1.1.1 requires the Delaware Division of Public Health to review and determine approval.

7.1.2 Religious exemptions are required to be approved upon receipt of a notarized affidavit of Religious Belief, and the school is required to offer information regarding the risks of NOT vaccinating.

Florida –Religious and Medical Exemptions, not restrictive but recorded and governed by the state health department.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to child care and public and private K-12 schools.
- Religious exemptions must be printed on the state Department of Health form DH-681 and signed by the county health department director.
- Medical exemptions must be submitted on a Department of Health form DH-680 and signed by a licensed physician certifying that the child should be permanently exempt for medical reasons.
- Temporary medical exemptions with expiration can be submitted by a licensed physician on DH-680 if vaccinations are “in-process” but some are temporarily contraindicated.
- Exempt students can be excluded from school attendance by the district school board or the governing authority of the private school in the event of a communicable disease emergency declaration by the county health department director or the State Health Officer.

State Statute – Title XLVIII (48) Early Learning – 20 Education Code; Chapter 1003 Public K-12 Education; Part II School Attendance; §1003.22 school-entry health examinations; immunization against communicable diseases; exemptions; duties of Department of Health.

[Fla. Stat. §1003.22 School-entry immunizations & exemptions.](#)

Public and private school requirements for admittance to Kindergarten or any other initial entrance into public or private school in the state.

- (5) (a) provides a religious exemption for the student if the parent of the child objects in writing that the administration of the vaccine conflicts with his or her religious tenets or practices; or
- (b) Provides a medical exemption for the student if a licensed physician certifies in writing on a form provided by the Department of Health that the child should be permanently exempt from the required vaccines for medical reasons stated in

writing, based on valid clinical reasoning or evidence, demonstrating the need for permanent exemption.

Administrative Code – Florida Administrative Code (FAC)

Department: Department of Health; Division: Division of Disease Control; Chapter: Control of communicable diseases and conditions which may significantly affect public health; rule 64D-3.046.

[FAC 64D-3.046](#)

Public and nonpublic schools, preschool, K-12, and adult education classes immunization requirements.

[DH Form 681](#), Religious Exemptions for Immunizations. Must be signed by the local county health department medical director or designee. Available at Florida Department of State Administrative code & Florida Administrative Register – Reference 64D-3.046.

[DH Form 680](#), Medical exemption form (temporary and permanent), must be signed by a licensed practitioner and accessed directly by the school and downloaded electronically by the Florida State Health Online Tracking System (SHOTS).

Department of Health Vaccine Requirements for public and nonpublic schools, preschool, K-12, and adult Ed found [HERE](#).

Georgia –Religious and Medical Exemptions, somewhat restrictive religious exemption.

- Medical and Religious Exemptions for all public & private K-12 schools and child care facilities in the state.
- Religious affidavit must be on the Department of Public Health form 2208, notarized, and submitted to the child’s school or child care facility.
- Medical exemption issued by the health department or licensed physician and submitted to the school. Valid only for one year.
- Exemptions can be revoked during an epidemic.

State statute – Title 20 Education; Chapter 2 Elementary and Secondary Education; Article 16 Students; Part 3 Health; §20-2-771 Immunization of students.

[Official Code of Georgia Annotated \(O.C.G.A.\) §20-2-771](#) (*GA uses Lexis.com for its online statutes lookup tool*)

Immunization requirements apply to all children attending any school or child care facility in the state.

(d) provides a medical exemption to any child found to have a physical disability that may make vaccination undesirable. Exemption must be issued by the local board of health or a licensed physician and may be accepted by the school or child care facility in lieu of a certificate of immunization.

(e) provides a religious exemption to any child whose parent or legal guardian objects to vaccination on the grounds that it conflicts with the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian; however, the vaccination may be required in cases when such

disease is in epidemic stages. Parents must submit a notarized Department of Public Health form 2208 to the school or child care facility stating that vaccination conflicts with the religious beliefs of the parent or guardian. See form in Rules [HERE](#).

Administrative code -

Georgia Administrative Code (GAC) – Department 511 Rules of Georgia Department of Public Health; Chapter 511-2. Disease surveillance and control; Subject 511-2-2. Immunization of School Children; Rule 511-2-2.

[Rule 511-2-2-.05](#) Medical exemption (for a child with physical disability). Valid only for one year. May be reissued yearly. A physician may issue a Certificate of Immunization on Form 3231 indicating “medical exemption” if the child has a physical disability, condition, or physiological idiosyncrasy that might cause a specific immunization to endanger life or health.

[Rule 511-2-2-.07](#) Religious objection. Must be completed on the Department of Public Health Form 2208. A parent or legal guardian can file Form 2208 with the school or child care facility. Affidavit of Religious Objection to Immunization must be notarized and includes language stating that the parent understands that the Georgia Department of Public Health has determined the required vaccinations to be necessary to prevent disease, safe, and that if the child does not receive the required vaccinations, they are at risk of spreading diseases to other children.

Hawaii –Religious and Medical Exemptions, restrictive medical.

- *2025 failed attempt to remove religious exemptions* [HB 1118](#).
- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to all child care and public and private K-12.
- Medical exemptions must be completed on State Medical Exemption Form [EPI-8](#) and signed by a licensed health care provider: MD, DO, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with Rx (APRN-Rx), or a Physician Assistant only.
- Providers must choose from a checklist of approved contraindications or precautions for each required vaccine.
- Requires a duration of exemption for each vaccine.
- Religious exemption requests must be submitted to the school on Department of Health Request for Exemption from Vaccination on Religious Grounds form [EPI-7](#).

State Statute –

Chapter 320A Education; Part IV. Provisions Affecting System Structure; C. Organization; Section 302A-1156 Exemptions.

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) [§302A-1156](#) – Exemptions.

1. Medical exemption: if a licensed physician, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse certifies that the physical condition of a child is such that immunizations would endanger the child’s life or health; or

2. Religious exemption: if a parent, custodian, guardian, or other person in loco parentis to a child objects to immunization in writing on the grounds that the immunization conflicts with that person's bona fide religious tenets and practices. Upon showing the appropriate school official satisfactory evidence of the exemption, no certificate or other evidence of immunization shall be required for entry into school.

[HRS §302A-1154](#) immunization requirements apply to any "school" in the state, defined in [§302A-901](#) as any day care center, child care facility, Head Start program, preschool, Kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school, public or private, including any special school for children in the state.

[HRS §302A-1157](#) – Invalidates exemptions if the Department of Health determines there to be a danger of an epidemic from any communicable diseases for which immunizations are required under 302A-1154 to 302A-1163.

Administrative Code –

Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) [§11-1157-5](#) Exemptions, with **new Administrative Rule change* effective 4/8/2025 to subsection (b) [HERE](#).

The new change removes language that prohibits requests for religious exemptions based on objections to specific immunizing agents. Now parents can object to specific vaccines only on religious grounds, if they so choose.

- (a) Provides medical exemption rules, including requiring medical exemptions for specific vaccines to be granted upon certification by a practitioner in a form specified by the department, that a student or child has a stated contraindication or precaution to a vaccine, for a specific period of time, in conformance with recognized standard medical practices. The form is required to be provided to the exempt person, parent, or guardian. Copies of the form are maintained in the student's school health record or child care facility. Issuing practitioners are required to forward a copy of the Certificate to the Department of Health.
- (b) Provides religious exemption rules, including a requirement for a religious exemption to be granted to a student or child whose parent or guardian certifies that the person's religious beliefs prohibit the practice of vaccination. Certification will be retained in the student's school health record, in the postsecondary school student's record, or in the child's care facility record.
- (c) Exemptions are void during an outbreak or epidemic
- (d) After-school programs, family child care homes, parent cooperatives, play groups, respite programs, group child care homes, and drop-in child care centers are excluded from the vaccine requirements of this chapter. Online K-12 schools and postsecondary schools are excluded.

Idaho –Religious, or Other Objection exemptions, and Medical, Non-restrictive.

- Vaccine requirements apply to K-12 public, private, and parochial schools.

- Medical exemptions are signed by a licensed physician and submitted directly to the child's school officials.
- Religious or other objection exemptions are signed by the parent on a [Department of Health form](#) or other similar form containing the child's name and a statement of objection submitted directly to the child's school officials.
- *Effective 7/1/2025, [S 2110](#) was enacted in 2025 and prohibits vaccine mandates by business, employers, schools, or government but allows exceptions for existing vaccine mandates for daycare, preschool, and K-12 school requirements. Exemption laws for these entities remain unchanged.*

State Statutes – Idaho Statutes Title 39 Health and Safety; Chapter 48 Immunization; [39-4801](#). Immunization – exemptions.

(5) exempts a child from school vaccine requirements if the child's parent or guardian has submitted to school officials a certificate signed by a licensed physician stating that the life or health of the child would be endangered by all or any of the required vaccinations.

(6) exempts a child from the school vaccine requirements if the child's parent submits to school officials a signed statement stating their objections on religious or other grounds.

Administrative Code – Idaho Administrative Code, Department of Health and Welfare [16.02.15](#). Immunization Requirements for Idaho School Children.

110. Exemptions. Authorizes a child to be exempt from school vaccine requirements if they submit exemption documentation to the school authorities at the time of admission and before attendance.

01. Life or health endangering circumstances: a signed statement of a licensed physician that the child's life or health would be endangered if any or all of the required vaccinations were administered.

02. Religious or other objections: a signed statement of the legal parent or guardian on a form provided by the Department of Health and Welfare or one containing similar information, including a. child's name; and b. a statement of objection on religious or other grounds.

Illinois – Religious and Medical exemptions (semi-restrictive), both must be signed by an examining physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to all licensed child care and public and private K-12.
- Religious and Medical exemptions provided in statute.
- Religious exemption must be on department form and signed by health care provider
- Medical exemptions must also be on department forms.

State Statute – Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS); 105 Schools; 5/ School Code; 5/27 Courses of Study – Special instruction; [105 ILCS 5/27-8.1](#) Health Examinations and Immunizations.

105 ILCS 5/27-8.1.

(8)

- Exempts children of parents who object to immunizations on religious grounds from the vaccine requirements for school enrollment.
- Parents or guardians are authorized to submit to the appropriate school authority a signed Certificate of Religious Exemption detailing the grounds for objection and the specific immunizations to which they object.
- This statement must include the specific religious belief that conflicts with the immunization and the parent’s understanding of the school’s exclusion policy in the case of an outbreak or exposure to a “vaccine-preventable disease.”
- The Certificate of Religious Exemption must also be signed by the authorized examining health care provider responsible for the performance of the child’s health examination, confirming that the provider provided education to the parent or guardian on the benefits of immunization and the health risks to the child and others of NOT vaccinating.
- The health care provider’s signature means only that the education was provided, and the practitioner is not authorized to determine a religious exemption.
- The authorized examining health care provider responsible for the performance of the child’s health examination (required for school enrollment) is authorized to determine a child exempt from immunization requirements or to adopt an individualized immunization schedule for the child based on the determination that the child may be more susceptible to experiencing an adverse vaccine reaction based on information from federal agencies such as the ACIP, vaccine information statements, vaccine package inserts, or the health care provider’s clinical judgement.
- The Certificate of Religious Exemption is produced by the Department of Public Health and made available to parents.
- The religious objection to vaccination is not required to be directed by the tenets of an established religious organization; however, general philosophical or moral reluctance to vaccination does not provide a sufficient basis for an exemption to vaccine requirements.
- The local school authority is responsible for determining if the content of the Certificate of Religious Exemption constitutes a valid religious objection.
- The Local school authority is required to inform the parent of the exclusion procedures.
- This subsection (8) also exempts a child from the immunization requirements if the physical condition of the child is such that vaccination should not be administered. The examining physician, advanced practice registered nurse, or a

physician assistant responsible for the performance of the health examination is required to state that vaccination is contraindicated for that child on the child's health examination form.

- A medical exemption is a physician's certification that a particular vaccine may be detrimental to the child's health and must state in writing that the child has a medical contraindication to receiving a vaccine.
- Medical exemptions must be written for each vaccine that is contraindicated.
- Medical exemption forms are provided by the Indiana State Department of Health, found [HERE](#).

Administrative Code – Illinois Administrative Code; title 77. Public Health; Part 665. Child and student health examination and immunization code; Subpart E. Exceptions; [§665.510](#) religious objection

- a) Children entering any public, private, or parochial school or a preschool program operated by a K-12 school or higher education institution whose parents or legal guardians object to immunizations can submit to the appropriate school authority a signed Certificate of Religious Exemption detailing the grounds for the objection and the specific immunizations to which they object.
- b) The religious objection must state a specific religious belief that conflicts with vaccination, not necessarily directed by tenets of an established religion. General philosophical or moral objections are not sufficient grounds for a religious objection.
- c) The objection must state the parent's understanding of the school exclusion policy for exempt students in the event of an outbreak or exposure.
- d) The Certificate of Religious Exemption must be signed by the authorized examining health care provider responsible for the performance of the child's health examination, confirming the parent has been educated on the risks of NOT vaccinating. The health care provider is not authorized to determine the validity of the religious objection.
- e) The local school authority is responsible for determining the validity of the religious objection. The Certificate of Religious Exemption form is required to be placed on file in the student's permanent record.
- f) Parents or guardians are required to submit the Certificate of Religious Exemption to their local school authority prior to entering Kindergarten, sixth, and ninth grade.
- g) Use of the Certificate of Religious Exemption applies to students transferring into school districts at any grade or entering preschool programs operated by elementary or secondary

schools. Certificates are required to transfer from one district to another if transferred with the student's permanent record.

- h) Certificate of Religious Exemption is also applicable to children entering child care facilities not operated by an elementary or secondary school or institution of higher learning.

§665.520 medical exemption

- a) Requires a medical exemption to be
- 1) Made by the examining physician, an advanced practice nurse, or a physician assistant responsible for the health examination if the medical condition of the child is such that one or more vaccinations are medically contraindicated; and
 - 2) Endorsed and signed by the examining physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant responsible for the performance of the health examination on the health examination form.
- b) The practitioner may consider nationally accepted recommendations from federal agencies such as ACIP, VIS (statements), vaccine package inserts, and the practitioner's clinical judgment in making the determination that the child may be susceptible to vaccine adverse events and should be exempt from one or more required vaccinations.
- c) Requires the child care or school authority to attach the medical exemption to the child's permanent record.
- d) Medical exemptions can be determined by the examining practitioner to be no longer necessary if the health of the child changes, and then vaccination requirements will apply.

Indiana –Religious and Medical Exemptions, semi-restrictive.

- Vaccine requirements apply to all public, private, parochial, and child care.
- Exemptions can be submitted directly to the child's school or child care.
- Exemptions (medical and religious) must be renewed every school year.
- Religious exemption can be handwritten by a parent.
- The medical exemption form is issued by the Indiana State Department of Health to be completed by the child's health care provider.
- Schools are required to file the completed form in the state's immunization registry, [CHIRP](#).
- Only a licensed physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, or Physician Assistant can sign an exemption form.

State Statute – Indiana Code (IC) Title 20 Education; Article 34 Student Health and Safety Measures; Chapter 3 Health and Safety Measures; Section 2 Religious Objections and Section 3. Exception for Student's Health.

[IC 20-34-3-2. Religious Objections](#)

- (a) Authorizes an exemption from required vaccinations for a student whose parent objects on religious grounds.

The objection must be (1) made in writing; (2) signed by the child's parent; and (3) delivered to the child's teacher or to the individual who might order an immunization.

- (b) Provides a religious exemption option for a school teacher.

[IC 20-34-3-3. Exceptions for Student's Health](#)

Provides a medical exemption for a student if a physician certifies that a particular vaccine required for school by this chapter is or may be detrimental to a student's health and is applicable until the vaccine is no longer detrimental to the student's health.

Administrative Code – No Department of Health Code related to vaccine exemptions, only immunization requirements for school children in Title 410 Indiana Department of Health; Article 1 Communicable Disease Control; Rule 1. Immunization of School Children. [410 IAC 1-1-1](#).

Indiana Department of Health Website: [Immunizations](#) (more information found here)

Iowa –Religious and Medical Exemptions, semi-restrictive religious language and medical (who can sign)

- Vaccine requirements apply to all children enrolled in a licensed child care center or a public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school in Iowa, including those who are provided a competent private instruction (accredited).
- Exemptions are submitted directly to the child's school or child care center.
- Medical exemptions can only be signed by a licensed physician (MD or DO), an advanced registered nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant.
- Religious exemptions in state law call for vaccination to conflict with tenets and practices of a recognized religious denomination of which the child is a member, but the Administrative Code only requires a sincere and genuine religious belief objection.
- Exemptions no longer require notarization following a 2024 Health and Human Services rule change.

State Statute – Iowa Code; Title IV – Public Health; Chapter 139A – Communicable and infectious diseases and poisonings; §139A.8 – Immunization of children.

[§139A.8 – Immunization of children](#)

4. a. Immunization is not required for a person's enrollment in any elementary or secondary school or licensed child care center if the following apply:

- (1) The applicant or the applicant's parent submits to the admitting school official a statement signed by a licensed physician, advanced registered nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant that the vaccination required

would be injurious to the health and well-being of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family.

(2) The applicant or the applicant's parent submits an affidavit signed by the applicant or the applicant's parent that the vaccination required conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized religious denomination of which the applicant is an adherent or member.

b. Exemptions do not apply in times of emergency or epidemic, as determined by the Director of Health and Human Services.

Administrative Code – Iowa Administrative Code (IAC) – Agency – Public Health Department (641); Chapter 7 – Immunization and immunization education; Rule 7.2 and 7.3 Persons excluded.

641 IAC 7.3

7.3(1) To be valid, a medical certificate of immunization exemption shall contain the individual's name, date of birth, vaccines exempted, and an expiration date (if applicable) and must bear the signature of the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant.

a. A medical exemption may apply to a specific vaccine(s) or all required vaccines.

b. A medical exemption may apply when the administration of a required vaccine would violate minimum interval spacing and the exemption shall apply only to an applicant who has not received prior doses of the exempted vaccine, not to exceed 60 calendar days.

7.3(2) A religious exemption may be granted to an applicant if immunization conflicts with a genuine and sincere religious belief.

To be valid, a religious certificate of immunization exemption for religious reasons shall contain, the applicant's name, date of birth, and the signature of the applicant or the applicant's parent and shall attest that immunization conflicts with a genuine and sincere religious belief and that the belief is in fact religious and not based merely on philosophical, scientific, moral, personal, or medical opposition to immunizations.

7.3(3) Medical and religious exemptions do not apply in times of emergency or epidemic.

Kansas – Religious and Medical Exemptions, restrictive religious language and annual renewal for medical.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to licensed child care and public, private, and parochial K-12.
- Medical exemptions must be renewed annually and submitted on the Department of Health and Environment Form [HERE](#).
- Religious exemptions can be handwritten and submitted directly to schools, but the Department of Health offers a template form [HERE](#).

- Religious exemptions do not renew annually; they follow the child through their school career.
- Religious exemption requires a student to be a member of a religious denomination whose teachings are opposed to vaccinations. Sample language from template: *“I hereby assert that this student is an adherent of a religious denomination whose religious teachings are opposed to such tests or inoculations, therefore, this child shall be exempt from the required immunizations under Section 72-6262 of Kansas Statute and shall be permitted to attend school except in the case of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak in the school.”*
- Effective 7/1/2025, [HB 2294](#) expands religious exemption language for child care vaccine requirements to include *“a written statement signed by the child’s parent or guardian that such immunization violates sincerely held religious beliefs of the parent or guardian.”*

State statute – Kansas Statutes Annotated (KSA); Chapter 72 – Schools; Article 62. – Student Health; Section 72-6262 – Certificate of completion required.

[KSA 72-6262](#) –

- (a) Requires every pupil enrolling for the first time in any public and private school in the state and each preschool or day care program operated by a school to submit proof of vaccination to the school board.
- (b) Exemptions provided
 - (1) an *annual* written statement signed by a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child to be that vaccination would seriously endanger the life or health of the child; or
 - (2) a written statement signed by one parent that the child is an adherent of a religious denomination whose teachings are opposed to such vaccinations.

Religious exemptions transfer with the student and do not renew annually.

Administrative Code – Kansas Administrative Regulations; Agency 28 Department of Health and Environment; Article 1. Diseases; Rule 28-1-20. Immunizations.

[KAR 28-1-20](#). Does not address exemptions.

Kentucky – Religious and Medical Exemptions, with ineffective “exemptions” during an epidemic for adults and children.

- Specific vaccine requirements (by age) in the Administrative Code for child care, beginning at 3 months; preschool programs; public or private primary or secondary school; homeschool children if they attend (1) or more in-school classes or participate in sports or any school-sponsored extra-curricular activities.

- Medical and Religious exemptions in state statute for public or private elementary or secondary school attendance
- Medical, Religious, and Philosophical exemptions in state statute for children and adults during an epidemic when a vaccination is ordered through an administrative, health department, or executive order.
- A medical exemption is provided with a check box on the State Immunization Certificate, [HERE](#).
- Religious Exemptions are required to be on a Health Department form [EPID 230A](#).
- Religious Exemptions are required to be notarized and to include any vaccinations the child has received.
- Declination of Mandatory Epidemic-related Vaccine Adult, Guardian, or Emancipated Minor Form [HERE](#) for religious or conscientiously held beliefs is available on the Health Department website and must also be notarized.
- The Epidemic exemption form states, “I understand that this refusal DOES NOT make me exempt from employer or business mandated vaccination. I may still be excluded from work, school, entering a business, or attending an event...”
- Overview of Department of Health Amended Immunization Regulations (2017 updates) [HERE](#).

State Statute – Kentucky Revised Statutes Chapter 214 Diseases; .036 Exceptions to testing or immunization requirement.

[KRS §214.036](#)

- (1) Nothing in KRS [158.035](#), [214.010](#), [214.020](#), [214.032](#) to [214.036](#), and [214.990](#) (repealed) shall be construed to require:
 - (a) The testing for tuberculosis or the immunization of any child at a time when, in the written opinion of his or her health care provider, such testing or immunization would be injurious to the child’s health;
 - (b) The immunization of any child whose parents or guardian are opposed to medical immunization against disease, and who object by a written, sworn statement to the immunization of such child based on religious grounds; or
 - (c) The immunization of any emancipated minor or adult who is opposed to medical immunization against disease, and who objects by a written, sworn statement to the immunization based on religious grounds.
- (2) In the event of an epidemic in a given area, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services may require the immunization of all persons within the area of epidemic, against the disease responsible for such epidemic, except that any administrative regulation promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A, administrative order issued by the cabinet or a local public health department, or executive order issued pursuant to KRS Chapter 39A requiring such immunization shall not include:

- (a) The immunization of any child or adult for whom, in the written opinion of his or her health care provider, such testing or immunization would be injurious to his or her health;
 - (b) The immunization of any child whose parents or guardians are opposed to medical immunization against disease and who object by a written, sworn statement to the immunization based on religious grounds or conscientiously held beliefs; or
 - (c) The immunization of any emancipated minor or adult who is opposed to medical immunization against disease, and who objects by a written, sworn statement to the immunization based on religious grounds or conscientiously held beliefs.
- (3) Requires the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to:
- (a) Develop and make available on its website a standardized form relating to exemptions in this section from the immunization requirements; and
 - (b) Accept a completed standardized form when submitted.

Administrative Code – Title 902 – Cabinet for Health and Family Services – Department for Public Health; Chapter 002 – Communicable Diseases; Regulation 060 – Immunization schedules for attending child day care centers, certified family child care homes, other licensed facilities which care for children, preschool programs, and public and private primary and secondary schools.

[902 KAR 2:060](#)

SECTION 3. Exceptions and Exemptions to the Required Immunization Schedules

(5) A Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status marked to designate a medical exemption is required to be issued for a child with a temporary or permanent medical contraindication to receiving a vaccine.

(6) (a) If an immunization is administered but another is objected to on religious grounds, a healthcare provider, pharmacist, local health department, or other licensed healthcare facility administering immunizations

1. May request that a parent or guardian complete the Commonwealth of Kentucky Parent or Guardian's Declination on Religious Grounds to Required Immunizations form to be submitted upon enrollment in a child care facility or school;

2. Shall issue a Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status marked to designate "religious objection" to the requirements of Section 2 of this administrative regulation; and

3. Shall list administered immunizations on the Commonwealth of Kentucky Certificate of Immunization Status.

(b) An [EPID 230A](#) form, commonwealth of Kentucky Parent or Guardian's Declination on Religious Grounds to Required Immunizations is required to be

1. Valid for the vaccination requirements of SECTION 2. of this administrative regulation;
2. List the immunizations that the parent or guardian objects to based on religious grounds;
3. Be an original document written, sworn, and signed before a notary public; and
4. Be submitted at the time of enrollment in a child care facility or school.

Louisiana – Statement of Dissent Exemptions (religious and philosophical) and Medical, non-restrictive.

- Vaccine requirements apply to all public and private schools, kindergartens, colleges, proprietary or vocational schools, and licensed day care centers.
- Statute specifically prohibits COVID-19 vaccine requirement as a condition of enrollment or continuing attendance at any public or nonpublic school or facility enumerated in Paragraph (1) of RS 17:170.
- Distance learning exemption provided in statute.
- Medical exemption from a physician stating that the procedure is contraindicated for medical reasons.
- Exemption for the student if the student, the parent, or the guardian submits a written dissent (not specified as religious or conscientious in nature).
- Written dissent exemption does not have to include vaccine records.
- Exempt students excluded during an outbreak.
- Schools and teachers are prohibited from discriminating against students based on vaccine status.
- In the Administrative Code, medical, religious, and philosophic exemptions are allowed for compliance with regulations concerning daycare and school vaccine requirements.
- In the Administrative Code, only medical and religious exemptions are allowed for compliance with regulations concerning public assistance recipients.

State Statute – Louisiana Revised Statutes (RS); Title 17 Education; §170.

Immunizations of persons entering schools, kindergartens, colleges, proprietary or vocational schools, and day care centers for the first time; immunization of persons entering sixth grade; electronic transmission of immunization compliance reports; exemption.

[RS 17:170.](#)

- E. (1) Provides an exemption from required vaccinations for any school or facility enumerated in this section for
- distance learning students;

- a student (or a parent) who submits a written statement from a physician stating that the vaccination is contraindicated for medical reasons; or
- a student (or parent) who submits a written dissent.

E. (3) Prohibits a teacher or school employee from distinguishing between students based on whether a student has or has not received the required vaccines. Prohibited actions include:

- (a) determination of eligibility for athletics or other activities;
- (b) allowing or denying participation inside or outside of the classroom;
- (c) issuance of surveys to students relative to vaccination status;
- (d) organizing seating arrangements.

F. Exempt students are authorized to be excluded from school attendance during an outbreak of a “vaccine-preventable disease” at the school.

Administrative Code – Title 51. Public Health – Sanitary Code; Part II. The Control of Diseases; Chapter 7. Public Health Immunization Requirements; §701. Immunization schedule.

[Louisiana Admin Code Title 51, §1-701](#). (p.57)

B. Medical, religious, and philosophic exemptions will be allowed for compliance with regulations concerning day care and school vaccine attendance requirements.

Only medical and religious exemptions will be allowed for compliance with regulations concerning public assistance recipients.

C. requires proof of vaccination for any person 18 years or under for admittance to any elementary and secondary school, Kindergarten, college, university, proprietary school, vocational school, licensed day care center, or residential facility.

Exemptions for medical reasons or a written dissent from parents are authorized in lieu of vaccine verification.

Maine – Medical exemption only, semi-restrictive (who can sign)

- *Religious & Philosophical Exemptions repealed in 2019 with [LD 798](#)*
- Vaccine requirements apply to any public or private elementary or secondary school in the state.
- Child care vaccine requirements provided for in Department Rule [HERE](#) (p.45), with medical exemption only.
- Distance education program students who do not physically attend classes at a school facility are exempt from vaccine requirements.
- Medical exemptions only.
- Medical exemption written by a licensed physician (MD or DO), a nurse practitioner, or a physician assistant

- Department of Health is prohibited by statute from issuing any rules that govern medical exemptions beyond what is prescribed in statute.
- No administrative code related to vaccine exemptions.

State statute – Maine Revised Statutes (MRS) Title 20A. Education; Chapter 223. Health, Nutrition, and Safety; §6355 Enrollment in school.

[§6355. Enrollment in school.](#)

2. Medical exemption: the parent or the child provides a written statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable.

4. Student covered by Individualized Education Plan (IEP): Students covered by an IEP plan on September 1, 2021, who had a philosophical or religious exemption from the immunization requirements on or before September 1, 2021, are authorized to continue to exercise the existing exemption as long as:

A. the parent or guardian provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that they have consulted with the parent and made the parent aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize; or

B. If the student is 18 years or older, the student provides a statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that they have consulted with the student and made the student aware of the risks and benefits associated with the choice to immunize.

[§6356. Exclusion from school](#)

1. Requires a public health official to notify the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the superintendent of the school if the public health official has reason to believe that a child in the school who has not been immunized against one or more diseases presents a clear danger to the health of others. The superintendent is required to exclude the child from school during the period of danger or until the child receives the necessary vaccine.

2. Requires the school to make educational arrangements for the child if they are absent for more than 10 days.

3. Authorizes the superintendent to exclude from the public schools any child who is a public health threat and requires the superintendent to exclude any child or employee who has contracted or been exposed to a communicable disease as directed by a physician after consultation with the Bureau of Health.

[§6358. Rules; requirements; reports.](#)

1. Prohibits the Commissioner and the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention within the Department of Health and Human Services from issuing any rules governing medical exemptions.

[§6359. Immunization of students](#) (public or private postsecondary school students)

3. Enrollment of school: requires a certificate of immunization for student enrollment or attendance.

A. Provides an exemption if a parent or student provides a written statement from a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant that immunization against one or more of the diseases may be medically inadvisable.

4. Exclusion from school: requires a public health official to notify the chief administrative officer of the school if a student who has not been immunized against one or more diseases presents a “clear danger to the health of others.” The chief administrative officer is required to exclude the student from school during the period of danger or until the student receives the necessary immunizing agent.

Maryland – Religious and Medical Exemptions, semi-restrictive religious language & medical (who can sign)

- Vaccine requirements apply to child care and public or private preschool and K-12 schools
- Religious exemption provided in state statute
- Medical exemption provided in the Administrative Code.
- Religious and medical exemptions must be submitted on the Maryland Department of Health Immunization Certificate [HERE](#).

State statute – Maryland Statutes; Article – Health – General; §18-403

[§18-403](#).

(a) prohibits the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene from requiring the immunization of an individual, unless the Secretary of the Department declares an emergency, if the individual has the following objections:

- (1) objects to immunization because it conflicts with the individual’s bona fide religious beliefs and practices; or
- (2) the parent or guardian of a minor objects because it conflicts with the parent or guardian’s bona fide religious beliefs and practices.

(b) requires the Secretary to adopt rules and regulations for religious exemptions under this section.

Administrative Code – Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR); Title 10 – Maryland Department of Health; Subtitle 06 – Diseases; Chapter 04 – School Health Services and Required Immunizations Before Entry into School; Regulation 10.06.04.04. Medical Contraindications.

[COMAR 10.06.04.04. Medical Contraindications](#) –

- A. Exempts a student who presents a licensed physician’s or health officer’s written statement that the student’s immunization required for school attendance is medically contraindicated.
- B. Requires the physician or health officer to indicate in the statement whether the contraindication is (1) permanent; or (2) temporary.

C. If the contraindication is temporary, (1) the physician or health officer is required to give an estimate of when the immunization may be obtained; and (2) the student's parent or guardian is required to provide the preschool or school evidence of the completion of the immunization in accordance with the estimate.

COMAR 10.06.04.05. Religious Exemption –

A. Exempts a student whose parent or guardian objects to immunization on the grounds that the immunization conflicts with the parent's or guardian's bona fide religious beliefs and practices.

The student must use the immunization certificate form provided by the Maryland Department of Health [HERE](#).

B. The exemptions do not apply when the Secretary declares an emergency or epidemic of disease.

C. Requires a preschool or school to maintain a current list of all students enrolled who have an exemption to immunizations on religious grounds and report the number of religious-exempt students to the Secretary of Health annually.

Massachusetts - Religious and Medical Exemptions, restrictive Department of Health oversight for medical.

- Vaccine requirements for licensed child care, preschool, and public and private elementary and secondary school attendance
- Medical and Religious Exemptions for child care and schools
- Medical exemptions can be disputed by the school health program physician and sent to the Department of Health, which has the authority to make a final decision on the validity of the child's Certificate of medical exemption from the child's physician.
- Religious exemptions are void during an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the Department of Public Health.
- Religious exemptions and medical exemptions are submitted directly to the school, with oversight for medical exemptions by the school health program physician.

State Statutes – Massachusetts General Laws (MGL); Part I. Administration of the Government; Title XII. Education; Chapter 76. School Attendance; Section 15. Vaccination and immunization.

Massachusetts General Laws c.76 §15.

- Requires a vaccination certificate from a physician for public or private elementary and secondary school attendance.
- Exemptions provided in the [Administrative Code](#) also apply to postsecondary school vaccine requirements.

- Provides a medical exemption for a child who has been examined by a physician and found to have a physical condition that the child's health would be endangered by one or more vaccinations.
- The physician's certification of medical exemption is required to be submitted at the beginning of each school year to the physician in charge of the school health program.
- The physician in charge of the school health program is authorized to refer the child's Certificate to the Department of Public Health for review if the school health program physician does not agree with the opinion of the child's physician.
- The Department of Public Health is authorized to make a final decision on the child's Medical Exemption Certificate.
- Provides a religious exemption to a child whose parent or guardian states in writing that the vaccination conflicts with his sincere religious beliefs.
- A religious exemption is not valid during an emergency or epidemic of disease declared by the Department of Public Health.

Administrative Code – Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR); Title 105 Department of Health; Chapter 220 – Immunization of students before admission to school; Regulation 220.500. Immunization requirements for preschool, elementary, and secondary school students.

[105 CMR 220.500](#) –

(A) Prohibits a student from attending a preschool, elementary school, or secondary school program without a certificate of immunization.

Immunization schedules are developed by the Department of Public Health in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices or any successor committee serving a comparable function.

(C) Students fulfil vaccine requirements under the following conditions:

- (1) The student, or the student's parent or guardian if the student is a minor, provides written documentation that they meet the standards for medical or religious exemption;
- (2) The student submits vaccination documentation; or
- (3) The student provides written documentation that they are immune, as defined in Department guidelines that require clinical or lab evidence.

Michigan – Religious, “other objection,” and Medical Exemptions, requires vaccine education session at health department for nonmedical exemptions.

- Vaccine requirements in statute for all public and private K-12 and licensed child care.
- Medical contraindication waiver (2025) [HERE](#)
- Nonmedical immunization waiver (2025) can only be obtained through the Department of Health after completion of a vaccine education session, see FAQ's [HERE](#)

State statutes – Michigan Compiled Laws; Chapter 333 Health; Act 368 of 1978 Public Health Code; Article 9 Supportive Personal Health Services; Part 92 Immunization; Section 333.9215 Exemptions.

MCL §333.9215 –

- (1) Exempts a child from vaccine requirements for any period of time if a physician certifies that a specific immunization is or may be detrimental to the child's health or is not appropriate.
- (2) Exempts a child from vaccine requirements if a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis of the child presents a written statement to the administrator of the child's school or operator of the group program that the requirements cannot be met because of religious convictions or other objection to vaccination.

Administrative Code –

Michigan Administrative Code; Department – Health and Human Services; Bureau – Public Health Administration; Title – Communicable and Related Diseases; Rule 325.176. Immunizations required of children attending group programs or entering school.

R. 325.176 –

Rule 6.

- (1)(b) defines exemption as a temporary or permanent waiver of 1 or more of the specific immunization requirements for medical, religious, or other reasons.
- (c) defines medical exemption as a written statement from a physician that a vaccination is medically contraindicated for a particular child for a specified period of time.
- (d) defines religious or other exemption as a written statement which is signed by the parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, which certifies that immunization is in conflict with religious or other convictions of the signer, and which includes the name and date of birth of the child.

- (12) requires a school or group program to recognize the exemption status of a child when presented with a medical, religious, or other exemption.

Minnesota – Conscientious and Medical Exemptions, semi-restrictive medical (who can sign), and Department of Health oversight for conscientious belief exemptions (on department form)

- Vaccine requirements in [§121A.15](#) apply to any public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, including church or religious organization school, homeschool compliant with [§120A.22](#) and [§120A.24](#), or licensed child care facility in the state.
- Vaccine requirements in [§135A.14](#) apply to public or private postsecondary educational institutions.
- All conscientious belief exemptions are required to be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Department of Health.

- K-12 medical and non-medical exemptions are required to be submitted on Department of Health form [HERE](#).
- Only a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant can sign a medical exemption form.

State Statutes – 2024 Minnesota Statutes (current); Education Code: Prekindergarten-Grade 12; Chapter 121A Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Behavior; Section 121A.15 Health standards; immunizations; school children.

[§121A.15](#). Health standards; immunizations; school children

Subdivision 3. Exemptions from immunizations.

(a) exempts a person at least seven years of age from pertussis vaccination if they have not been vaccinated against pertussis.

(b) exempts a person at least 18 years of age from a polio vaccine if they have not completed a series of polio vaccinations.

(c) (medical) exempts a person from school or child care vaccinations if they submit to the administrator of the school or child care facility a statement signed by a physician stating that an immunization is contraindicated for medical reasons or that laboratory confirmation of the presence of adequate immunity exists.

(d) (conscientious) exempts a person from school or child care vaccinations if they submit a notarized statement signed by the minor child's parent or guardian (or by the emancipated person) stating that the person has not been immunized because of the conscientiously held beliefs of the parent or guardian of the child.

This statement is required to be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Department of Health.

This exemption does not apply to a child enrolling or enrolled in a child care center or family child care program that adopts a policy under subdivision 3b. (new change based on 2024 legislation [HF 5273](#))

(e) exempts a person under 15 months of age from MMR vaccine.

(f) exempts a person 5 years of age from the Hib vaccine.

(g) exempts a person enrolled in a Minnesota school online learning course or program that delivers instruction online and does not provide any teacher or instructor contact time or require classroom attendance.

Minnesota Statutes; Postsecondary Education Code; Chapter 135A Postsecondary Education; Section 135A.14 Statement of immunization.

[§135A.14 Statement of immunization](#).

Requires certain vaccines for public or private postsecondary educational institution.

Subdivision 3. Provides medical, natural immunity, and conscientious belief exemptions.

(a) (1) requires a student to submit to the administrator a signed statement by a physician that shows the student did not receive an immunization for medical reasons.

(2) requires a student to submit to the administrator a signed statement by a physician that the student has experienced the natural disease against which the immunization “protects”; or

(3) requires a student to submit to the administrator a signed statement by a physician that a laboratory test has confirmed the presence of adequate immunity.

(b) requires the student to submit a notarized statement that the student has not been immunized as required because of the student’s conscientiously held beliefs. The school is required to forward this statement to the Commissioner of Health.

Administrative Code – Minnesota Rules; Department of Health; Chapter 4604 Immunization; Rule 4604.0400 Immunization documentation record.

4604.0400.

- Requires all child care facilities and elementary and secondary schools to use the Department of Health’s official record form or a similar document approved by the Commissioner of Health when communicating to parents or guardians regarding immunization requirements and exemption procedures.
- The record form requests information about immunizations and includes statements for documenting medical or conscientious exemptions. See form [HERE](#).
- Only a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant can sign a medical exemption.

Mississippi – Medical Exemption only in Statute, Religious Exemption established through 2023 federal court ruling, restrictive medical and religious exemptions with state oversight.

- Vaccine requirements apply to all child care and K-12 public and private.
- No statutory provision for religious exemption. [A federal court ruling](#) in 2023 required the state to accept religious objections. This process can be found on the Health Department’s website [HERE](#).
- Medical exemptions must be signed by the child’s licensed pediatrician, family physician, or internist, and on Department form [139-M](#)
- Department of Health State Epidemiologist reviews all medical exemption requests and can reject requests.
- Religious exemption requests must be completed on Department form [139-R](#), and will be reviewed for “completeness” by State Department of Health. Can be rejected if incomplete.
- Parents must submit the religious exemption request form to County Health Department (appointment required) and complete additional steps required by the County Health Department, including watching a vaccine education video and

sitting through a counseling session with Health Department nurse. The county will submit the form to the State Health Department for review.

- Children with exemptions will be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

State Statutes (uses Lexis online) – Mississippi Code Annotated; Title 41. Public Health; Chapter 23. Contagious and Infectious Diseases; In General; Section 41-23-37. Immunization practices for control of vaccine-preventable diseases; school attendance by unvaccinated children.

[§41-23-37](#). Immunization practices for control of “vaccine-preventable” disease; school attendance by unvaccinated children.

- Requires vaccination for all children to attend any school, Kindergarten, or similar type facility intended for the instruction of children, either public or private, with the exception of a legitimate home instruction program.
- Provides a certificate of exemption for medical reasons by a duly licensed physician, which may be accepted by the local health officer when, in his opinion, such exemption will not cause undue risk to the community.
- Certificates of vaccination are required to be issued by local health officers or physicians on forms specified by the Mississippi State Board of Health.

Administrative Code – There are no administrative code sections that apply explicitly to vaccine exemptions. All Department of Health requirements for exemptions are found on the website linked in the summary statements above.

Missouri – Religious and Medical, semi-restrictive medical (who can sign)

- *Statutes temporarily unavailable on the state website (<https://revisor.mo.gov/>). Using Justia Law for the online statute sources and Legal Information Institute for the Administrative Code.*
- Vaccine requirements apply to all public, private, parochial, or parish schools and child care centers.
- State vaccine requirements based on ACIP and Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children recommendations.
- Religious and Medical exemptions are provided in state statute.
- Medical exemptions can only be signed by an MD, DO, or their designee.
- Religious exemption must be submitted on Department of Health Form.

State Statute – Missouri Revised Statutes; Title XI – Education and Libraries; Chapter 167 – Pupils and Special Services; Section 167.181 – Immunization of pupils against certain diseases-exceptions.

[§167.181](#). Immunization of pupils against certain diseases-exceptions.

3. A student is exempt from vaccine requirements if one parent or guardian objects in writing to his school administrator against the immunization of the child, because of religious beliefs or medical contraindications.

In cases of medical contraindications to vaccination, a statement from a duly licensed physician must also be provided to the school administrator.

Administrative Code – Missouri Code of State Regulations (CSR); Title 19 – Department of Health and Senior Services; Division 20 – Division of Community and Public Health; Chapter 28 – Immunization; Section 28.010 – Immunization requirements for school children.

[19 CSR 20-28.010](#) – Immunization requirements for school children.

(C) 1. Medical exemption. Exempts a student from immunization requirements provided in RSMo §167.181, upon signed certification by a licensed doctor of medicine (MD), doctor of osteopathy (DO), or his or her designee indicating that either the immunization would seriously endanger the student's health or life or the student has documentation of disease or laboratory evidence of immunity to the disease.

The exemption is required to be provided on an original Department of Health and Senior Services form [Imm.P.12](#) and will be placed on file at the school.

The exemption form Imm.P.12 can be obtained by contacting a local medical provider, local public health agency, or the department's Bureau of Immunization Assessment and Assurance.

2. Religious exemption. Exempts a student from immunization requirements provided in RSMo §167.181 if one parent or guardian objects in writing to the school administrator that immunization of that student violates his/her religious beliefs.

The exemption must be provided on an original Department of Health and Senior Services form [Imm.P.11A](#).

Montana – Religious and Medical Exemptions, non-restrictive

- Vaccine requirements apply to all licensed child care and public and nonpublic K-12 schools.
- State law authorizes postsecondary institutions to impose requirements that are more stringent than the K-12 requirements.
- Requires religious exemptions to be submitted to the school on Department of Health forms.
- Prefers medical exemptions to be submitted to the school on Department of Health forms, but not required.
- Medical exemption form [HES 101A](#)
- Religious exemption form [HES 113-](#)

State Statutes – Montana Code Annotated (MCA) (2023 current version); Title 20. Education; Chapter 5. Pupils; Part 4. Health; Section 405. Exemptions – limitations on agency actions.

§20-5-405. Exemptions

(1)(a) provides a religious exemption to vaccine requirements if the person files with the governing authority of the school an affidavit form prescribed by the Department of Public Health and Human Services stating that immunization is contrary to the religious tenets and practices of the signer.

(b) requires the statement to be signed by the person seeking to enroll in school if they are an adult or by the person's parent or guardian if they are a minor.

(c) requires the statement to be maintained as part of the person's immunization records.

(2)(a) provides a medical exemption to the vaccine requirements if the person enrolled or seeking enrollment files with the governing authority of the school a written medical exemption statement signed by a health care provider.

The statement must indicate the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstances that contraindicates immunization.

(b) establishes that the person is exempt to the extent indicated by the medical exemption statement.

(c) requires the medical exemption statement to be signed by a person who is

(i) licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized to provide health care as defined in [§50-16-504](#), which defines "health care provider" as a person who is licensed, certified, or otherwise authorized by the laws of this state to provide health care in the ordinary course of business or practice of a profession;

(ii) authorized within the person's scope of practice to administer the immunizations to which the exemption applies; and

(iii) has previously provided health care to the person seeking the exemption or has administered an immunization to which the person seeking an exemption has had an adverse reaction.

(d) requires an exemption statement under this section to be maintained as part of the person's immunization records.

(4) authorizes exempt persons to be excluded from school attendance by the local health officer or the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Administrative Code –

(Child care) Administrative rules of Montana; Title 37 Public Health and Human Services; Chapter 37.96 Licensure of Day Care Facilities; Subchapter 37.96.8 Immunization; Section 37.96.805 Exemptions from vaccination.

[§37.96.805 Exemptions from vaccination](#)

- Requires a religious exemption to be maintained on an Affidavit of Exemption on Religious Grounds Form ([HES-113](#)) prescribed by the department.
- Requires a written and signed statement from a health care provider that vaccination is medically contraindicated, submitted to the child care provider. It is preferred, but not mandatory, that a health care provider's medical exemption be recorded on [HES-101A](#).

(K-12) Administrative Rules of Montana; Title 37 Public Health and Human Services; Chapter 37.114 Communicable Disease Control; Subchapter 37.114.7 Immunization of School Children

- Provides medical and religious exemptions for child care attendance with same rules as for K-12

[§37.114.715 Medical Exemption](#)

- Preferred but not mandatory that the exemption be provided on the HES 101A “Medical Exemption Statement” form provided by the department.

§37.114.716 Religious Exemption

- Required to be prepared using form HES 113 “Affidavit of Exemption on Religious Grounds from Montana School Immunization Law and Rules” provided by the department.

Nebraska – Religious and Medical Exemption, non-restrictive

- Exemptions apply to both child care and public, private, and parochial K-12 schools.
- Child care can accept a written statement of parental refusal stating the reason why the parent or guardian does not wish to vaccinate the child, doesn’t have to be a religious reason.
- K-12 Schools have religious and medical exemptions in state statute.
- Nebraska Department of Health provides Medical and Religious exemption forms for K-12, but they are only recommended for consistency, not required to use their forms.
- Medical exemption form [HERE](#).
- Religious exemption form [HERE](#).
- Medical exemption must be signed by a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse practitioner.
- Religious exemption must be notarized.

State Statutes – Nebraska Revised Statutes; Chapter 79 Schools; Section 79-221 Immunization; when not required.

§79-221 Immunization; when not required.

- Immunization shall not be required for a student’s enrollment in any school in this state if he or she submits to the admitting official either of the following:
 - (1) A statement signed by a physician, physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse stating that the immunizations required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student’s family or household; or
 - (2) An affidavit signed by the student or the student’s parent stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized denomination of which the student is an adherent or member, or that immunization conflicts with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the student.

Administrative Code – Nebraska Administrative Code (NAC); Health and Human Services; Title 173 Control of Communicable Diseases; Chapter 3 School Health, Communicable Disease Control and Immunization Standards; Rule 3-010 Medical and religious exemption; provisional enrollment.

173 NAC 3-010. Medical and religious exemption

3-010.01 Immunization is not required for a student’s enrollment in any school in this state if he or she submits to the admitting official either of the following:

3-010.01A. A medical exemption signed by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner stating that immunization(s) required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or student's family member; or

3-010-01B. A religious exemption affidavit notarized and signed by the student or student's parent stating that immunization conflicts with the tenets and practices of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or that immunization conflicts with the personally and sincerely held religious beliefs of the student.

Nevada – Religious and Medical Exemptions, semi-restrictive by administrative rule

- Vaccine requirements in law for child care and public, private, and charter K-12 schools.
- Religious and Medical exemptions for public, private, and charter schools and child care provided in state statute
- Religious exemptions for public and private school are required to be submitted to the school board annually and on a form provided by the Department of Health. [HERE](#).
- Administrative Code authorizes a local health officer to conduct an audit of medical exemptions in public and private schools if the school immunization rate falls below 95%, the school district fails to report immunization data annually, the rate of medical exemptions is higher than the average rate in the state, or if the local health officer determines an audit is necessary. See rule NAC 392.130 [HERE](#) for public and NAC 394.265 [HERE](#) for private.
- Exemptions submitted directly to the school board or governing body of a private school.
- A licensed physician or an advanced practice registered nurse can sign a medical exemption.
- Exempt students are required to remain outside of school or be immunized if a “dangerous contagious disease” is present in the school.

State Statutes –

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS); Title 34 Education; Chapter 392 Pupils; Section 392.437. Immunization of pupils: exemption if prohibited by religious belief & Section 392.439. Immunization of pupils: Exemption if prevented by medical condition.

NRS 392.437 Religious belief exemption (public schools)

- Prohibits a public school from refusing to enroll a child because the child has not been vaccinated if the parents or guardian of the child has submitted to the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of a charter school a written statement indicating that their religious belief prohibits immunization.

NRS 392.439. Medical exemption (public schools)

- Requires the board of trustees of the school district or governing body of the charter school to accept a child's medical exemption for all or part of the required

vaccinations if the medical condition of a child will not permit the child to be immunized to the extent required by state law, and a written statement of this fact is signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse and by the parents or guardian of the child.

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS); Title 34 Education; Chapter 394 Private Educational Institutions and Establishments; Section 394.193 Immunization of pupils: exemption if prohibited by religious belief & Section 394.194 Immunization of pupils: exemption if prevented by medical condition.

[NRS 394.193](#) Religious belief exemption. (private schools)

- Prohibits a private school from refusing to enroll a child as a pupil because such child has not been immunized pursuant to state law if the parents or guardian of the child have submitted to the governing body a written statement indicating that their religious belief prohibits immunization of the child.

[NRS 394.194](#) Medical exemption. (private schools)

Requires the governing body to exempt a child from vaccine requirements if the medical condition of a child will not permit the child to be immunized to the extent required by state law, and submits to the governing body a written statement of this fact signed by a licensed physician or advanced practice registered nurse. The child will be exempt from all or part of the vaccine requirements according to the written statement.

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS); Title 38 Public Welfare; Chapter 432A Services and Facilities for Care of Children; Section 432A.240 Exemption from immunization when contrary to religious belief & Section 432A.250 Exemption from immunization because of medical condition.

[NRS 432A.240](#) – Religious belief exemption. Same as above

[NRS 432A.250](#) – Medical exemption. Same as above.

Administrative Code -

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC); Chapter 392 Pupils; Section 392.120 Exemption if prohibited by religious belief & Section 390.125 Exemption if prevented by medical condition.

[NAC 392.120](#) religious belief exemption – (public school)

- The written statement required for a religious exemption must be submitted to the board of trustees of a school district or governing body of a charter school 1. Annually, according to the annual enrollment schedule of the school district or charter school; and 2. On a form provided by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.

[NAC 392.125](#) medical exemption – (public school)

- The written statement required to exempt a child for a medical condition must be submitted on a form provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Nevada Administrative Code (NAC); Chapter 394 Private Educational Institutions and Establishments; Section 394.255 Exemption if prohibited by religious belief & Section 394.260 Exemption if prohibited by medical condition.

[NAC 394.255](#) Religious belief exemption (private school)

- The written statement required for a religious exemption must be submitted to the governing body of a private school 1. Annually, according to the annual enrollment schedule of the private school; and 2. On a form provided by the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services.

[NAC 394.260](#) Medical exemption (private school)

- The written statement required to exempt a child for a medical condition must be submitted on a form provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.

New Hampshire – Religious and Medical Exemptions, religious must be submitted on department form.

- Exemptions apply to public and private K-12 school and childcare immunization requirements
- Religious and Medical exemptions are provided in state statute
- Religious exemption must be submitted on the New Hampshire Childcare/School Immunization Religious Exemption form [HERE](#).
- *Religious exemption forms no longer require a notary signature per [HB 1035](#), effective July 19, 2022.*
- Exempt students are authorized to be excluded from school or childcare during an outbreak of a communicable disease for which immunization is required.

State Statutes – New Hampshire Statutes; Title X Public Health; Chapter 141-C Communicable Disease; Section 141-C:20-c Exemptions.

[§141-C:20-c. Exemptions.](#)

I. Exempts a child from required immunizations if a physician licensed under RSA 329, or a physician exempted under RSA 329:21, III, certifies that immunization against a particular disease may be detrimental to the child's health.

This medical exemption only exists for the length of time, in the opinion of the physician, such immunization would be detrimental to the child.

An exemption for one disease/immunization shall not affect other required immunizations.

II. Exempts a child from required immunizations if a parent or legal guardian objects because of religious beliefs.

The parent or guardian is required to sign a form stating that the child has not been immunized because of religious beliefs.

Administrative Code – nothing restrictive or different than what is provided in state statute regarding vaccine exemptions.

State Vaccine Exemption Laws by State, Part II

New Jersey – Religious and Medical Exemptions, restrictive medical (who can sign and ACIP/AAP contraindications)

- Vaccine requirements in the State Statutes Sanitary Code apply to all public, private, or parochial K-12 schools, preschools, and child care centers in the state.
- Medical exemptions must indicate contraindications to vaccination based on ACIP of the US Public Health Service/CDC, or AAP guidelines (listed on the health department medical exemption form [IMM-53](#)).
- Medical exemptions can only be signed by an MD, DO, or advanced practice nurse.
- Medical exemptions need to be reviewed (not renewed) annually.
- The NJ Department of Health provides a form [IMM-53](#) for healthcare providers to use to submit a medical exemption, but use of the form is not required.
- Religious exemptions must be signed by the parent/guardian and submitted in writing to a school, preschool, or child care center based on “*the ground that the immunization interferes with the free exercise of the pupil’s religious rights.*”
- If a religious-exempt child receives even one vaccine (recommended or required) the religious exemption is null and void.
- *“A religious exemption is different from a philosophical, moral, or conscientious exemption. A religious exemption does not have to include the name of the religion, nor does it need to be notarized nor does it need to be signed by a religious leader. It can be filed by a parent or guardian of a minor or by an adult individual. The parent/guardian’s handwritten statement must be signed and dated. A type-written statement must include the parent/guardian’s handwritten signature and date. All schools, childcare centers, and local health officers may be advised that the religious exemption extends to private, parochial, and public institutions. When a parent or guardian submits their written religious exemption to immunization, which contains some religious reference, those persons charged with implementing administrative rules at N.J.A.C. 8:57–4.4, should not question whether the parent’s professed religious statement or stated belief is reasonable, acceptable, sincere and bona fide. In practice, if the written statement contains the word “religion” or “religious” or some reference thereto, then the statement should be accepted, and the religious exemption of mandatory immunization(s) granted. Please note, that religious-affiliated schools cannot be challenged on their decision.”* [SOURCE](#)
- Administrative Code prohibits a school, preschool, or child care center from exempting a child from mandatory vaccinations on the basis of a moral or philosophical objection.

- Exempt students authorized to be excluded from school, preschool, or child care in the event of a communicable disease outbreak for which the child is not vaccinated.
- Higher ed vaccine exemptions in Administrative Code [§8:57-6.4](#) for medical reasons ([6.14](#)) “based on ACIP guidance” and religious reasons ([6.15](#)) via a declaration of sincere religious conflict.

State Statutes – New Jersey Statutes; Title 26 Health and Vital Statistics; Section 1A-9.1 Exemption for pupils from mandatory immunization; interference with religious rights; suspension.

[§26:1A-9.1](#). Exemption for pupils from mandatory immunization; interference with religious rights; suspension.

- Requires provisions in the State Sanitary Code in implementation of this act to provide for exemption for pupils from mandatory immunization if the parent or guardian of the pupil objects thereto in a written statement signed by the parent or guardian upon the ground that the proposed immunization interferes with the free exercise of the pupil’s religious rights.
- This exemption is authorized to be suspended by the State Commissioner of Health during the existence of an emergency as determined by the State Commissioner of Health.

Administrative Code – New Jersey Administrative Code; Title 8 Health; Chapter 57 Communicable Diseases; Subchapter 4 Immunization of Pupils in School; Section 4.3 Medical exemptions & Section 4.4 Religious exemptions.

[§8:57-4.3 Medical exemptions](#) –

(a) prohibits a child from being required to receive any specific immunization(s) that are medically contraindicated.

(b) provides a medical exemption for a child for a period of time determined by the medical provider who submits a written statement to the school, preschool, or child care center that adheres to the following conditions:

- Signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine (MD) or osteopathy (DO) or an advanced practice nurse (certified registered nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist) in any jurisdiction of the US
- indicating that an immunization is medically contraindicated for a specific period of time
- indicating the reason(s) for the medical contraindication based upon “valid medical reasons as enumerated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the US Public Health Service or the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines
- The guidelines identified above are available via mail:
 - i.) ACIP, US Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 30333; and
 - ii.) AAP, Committee on Infectious Diseases, PO Box 927, Elk Grove, IL 60009-0927

(c)

- The physician's or advanced practice nurse's statement is required to be retained as part of the child's immunization record; and
- is required to be reviewed annually by the school, preschool, or child care facility.
- The medical exemption terminates when the child's medical condition permits immunization.

(d) Authorizes medically exempt children to be excluded from school, preschool, or child care during a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak for which the child has not received an immunization, as determined by the Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services, or his or her designee.

[§8:57-4.4 Religious exemptions](#) –

(a) provides a religious exemption for a child from any mandatory immunization for a school, preschool, or child care attendance if the child's parent or guardian submits to the school, preschool, or child care center a written, signed statement requesting an exemption, pursuant to the requirements for religious exemption established at [N.J.S.A. 26:1A-9.1](#), on "*the ground that the immunization interferes with the free exercise of the pupil's religious rights.*"

1. prohibits the school, preschool, or child care center from exempting a child from mandatory immunization on the sole basis of a moral or philosophical objection to immunization.

(b) authorizes religious affiliated schools or child care centers to withhold or grant a religious exemption from the required immunization for pupils entering or attending their institutions without challenge by any secular health authority.

(c) requires each school, preschool, or child care center to retain a copy of the child's religious exemption statement in the child's immunization record.

(d) authorizes a school, preschool, or child care center to exclude children with religious exemptions during a "vaccine-preventable" disease outbreak or threatened outbreak for which the child has not been immunized, as determined by the Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services, or his or her designee.

New Mexico – Religious and Medical Exemptions, restrictive medical (who can sign), all exemptions expire after 9 months and must be requested by mail (60-day approval process/can be denied).

- Vaccines are required for all children attending public, private, home, or parochial elementary and secondary schools, as well as early childhood facilities, and licensed preschool or child care centers in the state, based on ACIP and AAP recommendations. Exemptions apply to all.
- Religious exemption offers two choices: 1. The parent is an adherent to a religious denomination signed by an officer of the religion that the religious teaching requires reliance on prayer or spiritual healing alone; or 2. The parent holds individually, or jointly with others, religious beliefs that do not permit vaccination.
- Medical exemption must be signed by a physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner.

- Exemptions are valid for no longer than 9 months (Administrative Code says 1 year).
- Exemption *requests* must be mailed to the Department of Health on the form provided by the Department [HERE](#).
- The Department has up to 60 days to approve or NOT approve the exemption request.
- Request forms must be notarized.

State Statutes – (hosted by NMSA.com) New Mexico Statutes Annotated (NMSA); Chapter 24 Health and Safety; Article 5 Immunization; Section 24-5-3. Exemption from immunization.

[§24-5-3. Exemption from immunization](#) –

A. Authorizes any minor child through the child's parent or guardian to file the following documents with the health authority charged with the duty of enforcing the immunization laws:

- (1) a certificate of a licensed physician, a physician assistant, or a certified nurse practitioner stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would seriously endanger the life or health of the child;
- (2) an affidavit or written affirmation from an officer of a recognized religious denomination that the child's parents or guardians are bona fide members of a denomination whose religious teachings require reliance upon prayer or spiritual means alone for healing; or
- (3) an affidavit or written affirmation from the child's parent or legal guardian that the parent's or legal guardian's religious beliefs, held either individually or jointly with others, do not permit the administration of a vaccine or other immunizing agent.

B. Establishes that the exemption certificate, affidavit, or affirmation exempts the child from vaccine requirements for a period not to exceed nine months on the basis of any one certificate, affidavit, or affirmation.

Administrative Code – New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC); Title 7 Health; Chapter 5 Vaccinations and Immunizations; Part 3 Exemption from School, Childcare, and Preschool Immunization; Section 7.5.3.2 and Section 7.5.3.6.

[7 NMAC 5.3.2. Scope](#)

- Establishes regulations that govern procedures for seeking exemptions from any of the immunizations required for public, private, home, parochial, elementary, and secondary schools, as well as early childhood education facilities under NM Department of Education, and licensed preschool or child care centers.

[7 NMAC 5.3.8. Requirements for approval of exemptions from immunization](#)

A. Authorizes any minor, through his parent, to file a request for exemption with the director of public health division by providing the following:

- (1) certificate of affidavit from a licensed physician, physician assistant, or certified nurse practitioner attesting that any of the required immunizations would endanger the life or health of the child; or

(2) an affidavit or written affirmation from an officer of a recognized religious denomination that the parents or guardians are members and the religious teaching requires reliance on prayer or spiritual means alone for healing; or

(3) an affidavit or written affirmation by a parent whose religious beliefs, held individually or jointly with others, do not permit vaccination.

B. Requires the original request for approval of any exemptions to be mailed to the Department of Health, Public Health Division, Immunization Program. PO Box 26110, Suite S-1250, Santa Fe, NM, 87502.

Request forms can be found at the immunization program offices or downloaded from the program's website [HERE](#).

C. Requires the Department to review and respond to the request within 60 days of receipt. Incomplete requests will be returned with information regarding missing elements.

D. Requires Department staff to determine the approval status of all requests for exemption under the following conditions:

(1) exemption requests required to be approved for a one-year period;

(2) in the case of approval, an approved, signed copy of the request shall be provided to the parents of the child;

(3) In the case of denial, the Department shall state the reasons for the denial in a letter of notification to the parents with information about the review process.

[7 NMAC 5.3.9. Review criteria](#)

- Provides a review process for exemption requests (what they are looking for on each) found [HERE](#).

[7 NMAC 5.3.11. Administrative review of denials](#)

- Establishes the right of a parent to request an administrative review of any exemption request denial.
- Requires the parent to submit a letter requesting the review within 30 days of receipt of denial.
- Requires the Department to review the request within 10 working days, review any supporting documents, make a determination of approval or denial, and notify the parent by certified mail.
- If approved, the child is exempt from immunization requirements for 9 9-month period.
- If denied, and the parent desires further review, the parent may request a hearing pursuant to [7.NMAC 5.3.12](#)

New York – Medical only, restrictive (who can sign, renewed annually, only ACIP/AAP contraindications allowed)

- Vaccine requirements in state statute apply to all public, private, and parochial child caring center, day nursery, day care agency, nursery school, kindergarten, elementary, intermediate or secondary school.

- Higher education vaccine requirements in state statute.
- *Religious and philosophical belief exemption removed from state statute effective June 2019 by [A2371A](#). This bill was passed through both houses without public hearing and signed on the same day by Governor Cuomo.*
- Medical exemption provided in state statute.
- Medical exemption must be submitted on NY State Dept. of Health “Medical Exemption Statement for Children 0-18 Years of Age” form [HERE](#).
- *Contraindications and precautions provided for by CDC referenced on the medical exemption form are “NOT FOUND” on [CDC website](#).*
- Only a physician (MD or DO) licensed to practice medicine in the state can sign a medical exemption.
- School vaccine compliance is tracked by the State Commissioner of Health annually.

State Statutes – Consolidated Laws of New York; Chapter 45 Public Health; Article 21 Control of Acute Communicable Diseases; Title 6 Poliomyelitis and Other Diseases; Section 2164 Definitions; immunization against poliomyelitis, mumps, measles, diphtheria, rubella, varicella, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), pertussis, tetanus, pneumococcal diseases, meningococcal disease, and hepatitis B.

[§2164](#) -

8. Authorizes a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state to certify that an immunization may be detrimental to a child’s health, and the child shall be exempt from immunization requirements until such immunization is found no longer to be detrimental to the child’s health.

Administrative Code – New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (CRR-NY); Title 10 Department of Health; Chapter II Administrative Rules and Regulations; Subchapter G. AIDS Testing, Communicable Diseases, and Poisoning; Part 66 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases; Subpart 66-1. School Immunization Requirements; Section 66-1.3 Requirements for school admission.

[10 CRR-NY 66-1.3](#) – Requirements for school admission.

- Requires one of the following for a child to be admitted to school:
 - (c) A signed, completed medical exemption form approved by the NYSDOH or NYC Department of Education from a physician licensed to practice medicine in New York State certifying the following:
 - immunization may be detrimental to the child’s health;
 - containing sufficient information to identify a medical contraindication to a specific immunization; and
 - specifying the length of time the immunization is medically contraindicated.

The medical exemption must be REISSUED annually.

The principal or person in charge of the school is authorized to require additional information supporting the exemption.

[10 CRR-NY 66-1.6](#) – Certificate of Immunization.

- Authorizes a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician-assistant to verify a history of varicella disease and/or positive serologic tests for measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, and/or Hepatitis B and/or laboratory confirmation of disease for measles, mumps, rubella, and/or varicella to satisfy immunization requirements.

10 CRR-NY 66-1.10 – Exclusion in event of disease outbreak.

- Authorizes the commissioner of the NYDOH or the commissioner of Health of the NY City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to order the appropriate school officials to exclude from attendance all students who have been exempted from immunization or are in the process of receiving required immunizations in the event of an outbreak until the commissioner determines that the danger of transmission has passed.
- Requires schools to maintain a list of “susceptible students” who should be excluded from attendance in the event of an outbreak of “vaccine-preventable” disease.
- The list must include all students who are exempt and who are in the process of completing immunization or awaiting the results of serologic testing for any vaccine-targeted disease.
- The list must be updated each time a new student enrolls in the school of a student’s immunization status changes.

North Carolina – Religious and Medical Exemptions, non-restrictive Religious, restrictive Medical (who can sign & required ACIP contraindications)

- Vaccine requirements apply to all children in the state, and a certificate of immunization is required for attendance at all child care facilities; public, private, and religious school (K-12); and college or university; exemptions apply to all requirements.
- Religious exemption is provided in state statute; no rules regarding religious exemption are provided in the department’s administrative code.
- Medical exemptions must include ACIP-recommended contraindications provided on Health Department form [HERE](#).
- Medical exemption forms can be submitted directly to the childcare, school, or college, unless they include contraindications not listed on the form and require health department approval.
- Other contraindications not listed on the form may be submitted to the Commissioner for Public Health for approval on a medical exemption request form DHHS 3995 [HERE](#).
- Medical exemptions are requested by a physician and approved by the Public Health Commissioner.

State Statutes – North Carolina General Statutes (G.S.); Chapter 130A Public Health; Article 6 Communicable Diseases; Section 130A-152. Immunization required & Section 130A-156 Medical exemption & Section 130A-157 Religious exemption.

§130A-152. Immunization required

- Requires all children in the state to be vaccinated against certain vaccines (diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, poliomyelitis, red measles (rubeola), and

rubella), plus any other disease determined by the Commissioner for Public Health.

§130A-156. Medical exemption

- Requires the Commissioner for Public Health to adopt by rule medical contraindications to immunizations required by state law.
- Authorizes a licensed physician to certify that a required immunization is or may be detrimental to a person's health because of the presence of one of the contraindications adopted by the commission.
- Authorizes the State Health Director to grant a medical exemption upon request by a physician licensed in this state for a contraindication to vaccination not on the approved list adopted by the commission.

§130A-157. Religious exemption

- Provides a religious exemption to the required vaccination if the bona fide religious beliefs of an adult or a child's parent are contrary to the vaccination requirements contained in state law.
- Requires the college, university, K-12 school, or child care facility to allow the person to attend without presenting a certificate of immunization upon submission of a written statement of the bona fide religious beliefs and opposition to the vaccine requirements.

Administrative Code – North Carolina Administrative Code (NCAC); Title 10A Health and Human Services; Chapter 41 Epidemiology Health; Subchapter A; Section 0404 Medical exemptions from immunization.

10A NCAC 41A.0404. Medical exemptions from immunization

(a) The certification of a medical exemption by a physician is required to be in writing, submitted directly to the college, school, or child care facility, and shall state the following: Medical Exemption Form [HERE](#).

- The basis of the exemption;
- The specific vaccine or vaccines the individual should not receive; and
- The length of time the exemption will apply.

(b) Establishes medical contraindications for which medical exemptions may be certified by a physician as those included in the most recent General Recommendations of the ACIP, published in the CDC publication, the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (webpage not found, see [HERE](#) for ACIP Recommendations webpage)

- A physician is authorized to submit a request to the Department for approval of a medical exemption to vaccination based on contraindications that are not listed on the department exemption form. Request form DHHS 3995 [HERE](#).

North Dakota – Beliefs (including religious, philosophical, or moral), Medical, and History of Disease Exemptions, non-restrictive language, only physician can sign medical.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to all child care; public, private, parochial K-12; and supervised home-instruction schooling.

- Medical, History of Disease, and Beliefs Exemptions provided for in the state statute.
- All exemptions must be submitted directly to the school or child care on the Department of Health and Human Services form [HERE](#).
- Separate form required for child care exemptions [HERE](#).
- Medical exemptions can only be signed by a licensed physician.

State Statute – North Dakota Century Code (NDCC); Title 23 Health and Safety; Chapter 07 Reportable Diseases; Section 23-07-17.1 Inoculation required before admission to school.

[NDCC §23-07-17.1. Inoculation required before admission to school.](#)

1. Requires a child to submit vaccination certification from a licensed physician or department of health representative as a condition of admittance to any public, private, or parochial school, or day care center, child care facility, head start program, or nursery school operating in the state, or supervision through a home-based instruction.

For home-based instruction, a child's parent or guardian is required to file the vaccine certification with the public school district in which the child resides.

2. Provides a provisional exemption for students to begin school while working toward completion of vaccine requirements.

3. Provides a Medical and Religious or Philosophical exemption option for any child, through the parent or guardian, to submit to the institution authorities the following:

- A certificate from a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would endanger the life or health of the child; or
- A certificate signed by the child's parent or guardian whose religious, philosophical, or moral beliefs are opposed to such immunization.

6. Authorizes the health officer to invalidate exemptions from immunization in the event of an epidemic of communicable diseases for which immunization is required. The students with exemptions are required to be excluded from school during an epidemic as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Administrative Code – North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC); Title 33 State Department of Health; Article 33-06 Reportable Conditions; Chapter 33-06-05 School Immunization Requirements; Section 33-06-05-01. Requirements.

[NDAC 33-06-05-01 \(4\) Exemptions.](#)

- Establishes that a child with a medical or a beliefs exemption is exempt from any one or all of the immunization requirements.
- Requires a physician to sign an exemption form indicating the vaccines that are included in the medical exemption.
- Requires a parent or guardian to sign an exemption form stating that the child has a beliefs exemption and indicate which vaccines are exempt because of the beliefs.
- Authorizes a child with a reliable history of chickenpox, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, measles, mumps, or rubella to be exempt from the applicable immunization

requirements. This requires a physician to sign a form stating that the child had the disease.

- Exemptions must be kept on file with the immunization records at the child's school, early childhood facility, Head Start program, or preschool educational facility.

Ohio – Conscientious, including Religious and Medical Exemption, non-restrictive.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to all child care, public, and nonpublic state-chartered schools.
- Conscientious, including Religious, objections and medical exemptions provided in state law.
- No higher education requirements in statute.
- Exemption statements (written) submitted directly to the school, no required department form.
- Child care vaccine requirements and exemptions are in a separate statute.
- Child care medical statement form (includes exemption) [HERE](#).

State Statutes – Ohio Revised Code (ORC); Title 33 Education-Libraries; Chapter 3313 Boards of Education; Section 3313.671 Proof of required immunizations – exceptions.

[ORC §3313.671 Proof of required immunizations – exceptions.](#)

(A)(1) Requires a pupil to submit to the school vaccination certification for certain vaccines at the time of initial entry or at the beginning of each school year to elementary or high school attendance, including mumps, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, rubeola, and rubella, or is in the process of being immunized and has received at least the first dose of each.

(B)(1) exempts a pupil from the rubeola vaccine requirement who has had natural rubeola and presents with a signed statement from the pupil's parent, guardian, or physician to that effect.

(2) Exempts a pupil who has had natural mumps from the mumps vaccine requirement, with a signed statement.

(3) Exempts a pupil who has had natural chicken pox from the chicken pox vaccine requirement, with a signed statement.

(4) Exempts a pupil who presents a written statement of the pupil's parent or guardian in which the parent or guardian declines to have the pupil immunized for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions.

(5) Exempts a child whose physician certifies in writing that such immunization against any disease is medically contraindicated.

(C) Authorizes a school to deny entry to a student exempted from the chicken pox immunization if the State Department of Health notifies the school's principal that a chicken pox epidemic exists in the school's population. Denial of admission shall cease when the epidemic no longer exists.

State Statute – Ohio Revised Code (ORC); title 51 Public Welfare; Chapter 5104 Child Day-care; Section 5104.014 Medical statement of immunization.

[ORC §5104.014 Medical statement of immunization.](#)

(C) provides exemptions from vaccine requirement for children attending child care centers for children who (a) have a medical contraindication to immunization; (b) the parent or guardian has declined to have the child immunized for reasons of conscience, including religious convictions; or (c) immunization is not medically appropriate for the child's age.

Medical statements must be submitted on the Department of Family Services form [HERE](#).

Administrative Code – Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) does not provide exemption rules beyond what is in state law.

Oklahoma – Religious/moral/personal belief and Medical Exemption, semi-restrictive process, must request from health department on form.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions in state law for child care and all public, private, and parochial school attendance.
- Religious and personal belief exemptions and medical exemptions are provided in the state law.
- Exemption requests must be submitted to the Department of Health on Department forms.
- Exemptions expire when the child enters the 7th grade, and the exemption request must be resubmitted.
- Medical exemption request forms can be signed by a licensed physician defined in code as a podiatrist, dentist, chiropractor, optometrist, MD, or DO.
- Children with exemptions can be excluded during a disease outbreak.
- Exemption request form [HERE](#).

State Statutes – Oklahoma Statutes; Title 70 Schools; Section 70-1210.191.

Certification – School Children – List of immunization tests required & Section 70-1210.192. Exemptions.

[§70-1210.191. Certification](#) (p. 1151)

- Requires vaccine certification for admittance into any public, private, or parochial school operating in this state.

[§70-1210.192. Exemptions](#) (p. 1153)

Authorizes a child, through the parent or guardian, to submit to the health authority charged with the enforcement of immunization laws of the state, the following exemptions:

1. A certificate of a licensed physician (as defined in [Section 725.2 of Title 59](#) -p. 661 - to be a D.P.M. doctor of podiatric medicine, D.C. doctor of chiropractic, D.D.S. or D.M.D. dentist or doctor of dental surgery/dental medicine, M.D. medical doctor, O.D. optometrist, or D.O. doctor of osteopathy) stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization would endanger the life or health of the child; or
2. A written statement by the parent or guardian of the child objecting to the immunization of the child.

[§70-3244. Documentation of vaccinations by students – Exemption](#) (p.1419)(higher education)

- Requires certain vaccines for higher education attendance (full-time or part-time).
- Does not apply to online or distance learning classes.
- Provides a medical exemption for a student who submits a written statement from a licensed physician indicating that a vaccine is medically contraindicated.
- Provides an exemption for a student who submits a written, signed statement declaring that the vaccine conflicts with the student’s moral or religious tenets or, if the student is a minor, a written, signed statement from the parent or guardian.

Administrative Code – Oklahoma Administrative Code (OAC); Title 310. Oklahoma State Department of Health; Chapter 535. Immunization Regulations; Subchapter 1. Childhood Immunizations; Section 310:535-1-2. Criteria for immunizations required & Section 310:535-1-3. Criteria for immunizations required for child care.

[OAC 310:535-1-2. Criteria for immunizations required.](#)

(d) Authorizes a child, through his parent or guardian, to apply for an exemption from the vaccine requirements for school by submitting a form to the Department of Health.

Exemptions submitted prior to a student entering 7th grade shall expire at the end of the student’s 6th-grade year.

A new exemption is required to be completed and submitted to the Oklahoma State Department of Health by the parent or guardian prior to enrolling in 7th grade.

(1) A request for a medical exemption shall contain a certificate signed by a physician (podiatrist, optometrist, chiropractor, dentist, MD, or DO) stating that the physical condition of the child is such that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child and the child should be exempt from immunization.

(2) A request for exemption for religious or other personal reasons shall contain a signed written statement from the parent or guardian stating a summary of the objections.

Lost or unobtainable immunization records are not grounds for personal exemption.

(e) Provides an exemption for pre-k school program students who are in the process of receiving immunizations based on age.

(f) Authorizes the department to grant exemptions or substitutions based on a medical history of a physical condition that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child, or a medical history stating the child is likely to be immune as a result of having had a “vaccine-preventable” disease, if the following are met:

(1) A history of having had diphtheria and/or tetanus is not acceptable as proof of immunity since infection with diphtheria or tetanus may not render an individual immune to either of these diseases;

(2) A history of having had polio, pertussis, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, or hepatitis A must be supported by laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to these diseases;

(3) A history of having had measles must be accompanied by a statement from a physician, public health authority, or laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to measles; or

(4) A parental history of having had varicella is acceptable evidence of immunity to varicella.

[OCA 310:535-1-3. Criteria for immunizations required for child care.](#)

(c) Provides an exemption for child care vaccine requirements if a family emergency exists, not to exceed 30 days.

(d) Immunization records for children attending school-age programs are not required if those records are maintained by the school and are readily available.

(e) Provides an exemption for a child if the parent or guardian submits a request form to the Department of Health:

(1) A request for exemption for medical reasons shall contain a certificate signed by a physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child and that the child should be exempt from immunization.

(2) A request for exemption for religious or other personal reasons shall contain a signed written statement from the parent or guardian stating a summary of the objections. Lost or unobtainable immunization records are not grounds for personal exemption.

(f) The Department may grant exemptions or substitutions in the immunization schedule based on a medical history of a physical condition such that the immunization would endanger the life or health of the child or a medical history stating the child is likely to be immune as a result of having had a vaccine-preventable disease if the following are met:

(1) A history of having had diphtheria and/or tetanus is not acceptable as proof of immunity since infection with diphtheria or tetanus may not render an individual immune to either of these diseases;

(2) A history of having had polio, pertussis, rubella, mumps, or hepatitis A must be supported by laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to these diseases;

(3) A history of having had measles must be accompanied by a statement from a physician, public health authority, or laboratory evidence to be acceptable as proof of immunity to measles;

(4) A parental history of having had varicella is acceptable evidence of immunity to varicella.

(5) A history of having had Hib before age two years is not acceptable as proof of immunity since infection with Hib prior to age two years may not render an individual immune.

Oregon – Religious, Philosophical, and Medical Exemptions, restrictive Religious/Philosophical with required vaccine education module and physician signature and restrictive Medical with ACIP/AAP contraindications required.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions in state statute for child care and all public, private, and parochial school attendance.
- Medical and Nonmedical exemptions must be submitted to school authority on forms provided by the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division.
- Oregon Health Authority Form for Medical Exemption [HERE](#).
- Oregon Health Authority Form for Nonmedical Exemption for parents [HERE](#).
- Oregon Certificate of Immunization Status (must be submitted with certificate of vaccine education module completion) [HERE](#).
- Oregon Health Authority Form for Nonmedical Exemption (college) [HERE](#).
- Forms to be submitted to school authority with local health department oversight.
- Nonmedical exemption forms require parent to complete vaccine education from health care practitioner (MD, DO, ND, NP, PA, or RN). Practitioner must verify that the practitioner provided vaccine risk/benefit education consistent with CDC and vaccine education module information.
- Vaccine Education Module link [HERE](#). More information found [HERE](#).
- If not filing a Nonmedical form with a practitioner's signature, parents must complete this form **and** the vaccine education module and submit the certificate of module completion along with this completed form to the school administrator [HERE](#).
- Medical exemptions must include a medical condition that is a contraindication or precaution to vaccination per the CDC or the AAP.

State Statutes – Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS); Volume 12 Public Health; Title 36 Public Health and Safety; Chapter 433 disease and Condition Control; Section 267 Immunization of school children; rules; exceptions

[ORS §433.267 Immunization of school children.](#)

- Requires vaccination as a condition of attendance for any school or children's facility in the state through grade 12.
- (1) The child is required to submit one of the following to the school authority:
- (a) documentation signed by the parent, a practitioner of the healing arts authorized to administer vaccinations, or a representative of the local health department certifying the immunizations that the child has received;
 - (b) a document signed by a physician or a representative of the local health department stating that the child should be exempted from receiving specified immunization because of an indicated medical diagnosis; or
 - (c) a document, on a form prescribed by the authority by rule and signed by the parent of the child, stating that the parent is declining one or more immunizations on behalf of the child. A document submitted under this paragraph:
 - (A) May include the reason for declining the immunization, whether for religious or philosophical belief; and
 - (B) Must include either
 - (i) a signature from a health care practitioner certifying that the health care practitioner has reviewed the risks and benefits of

immunization with the parent consistent with CDC information and the contents of the vaccine educational module approved by the authority pursuant to rules adopted under ORS 433.273; or
 (ii) A certificate verifying that the parent has completed a vaccine educational module approved by the authority pursuant to rules adopted under ORS 433.273.

(4) Authorizes the school administrator to conduct a primary evaluation of the documents submitted per vaccine certification requirements, including exemptions.

(7) Authorizes the local health department to provide for a secondary evaluation of the records to determine whether the child should be excluded for noncompliance with vaccine requirements.

[ORS §433.281](#). (higher ed) Post-secondary institutions that provide student housing are required to provide information about “vaccine-preventable diseases.” Does not include vaccine requirements.

[ORS §433.282](#). (higher ed) Required immunizations at certain post-secondary educational institutions.

- Authorizes the Oregon Health Authority to require each post-secondary institution, except a community college or career school, to require each full-time student to be immunized, as required for children attending school under [ORS 433.273](#), including exemptions, before the student’s second quarter or semester of enrollment on the campus.

[ORS §433.283](#). (higher ed) Immunizations against measles for certain students at community colleges

- Authorizes the Oregon Health Authority to require students involved in clinical experiences, practicum experiences, and child care programs to have current immunizations for measles.

[ORS §433.284](#). (child care, private schools, and higher ed) Adoption of more stringent immunization requirements.

- Authorizes private schools, children’s facilities, and post-secondary educational institutions to adopt additional or more stringent requirements as long as exemptions are included and the requirements are in compliance with ACIP recommendations.

Administrative Code – Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR); Public Health Division Chapter 333; Division 50 School Immunization Rules; Section 333-050-0270 Record of immunization exemptions.

[OAR 333-050-0270. Record of immunization exemptions.](#)

(1) Medical exemptions.

- Authorizes a parent to claim a medical exemption from an immunization or a child for one or more required vaccines
- Requires a parent claiming a medical exemption on or after August 1, 2025, to submit a medical exemption form to the school administrator.
- Requires the administrator of the school to submit all medical exemption forms to the local health department.

- Requires the local health department to review the forms to ensure all the fields are complete and to verify that the documentation includes a contraindication or precaution in accordance with the current recommendations of the ACIP or the AAP.
- Requires the local health department to inform the school if a medical exemption form does not contain a [contraindication or precaution](#) in accordance with the ACIP or AAP recommendations and the school is required to inform the parent.
- Authorizes a medical exemption form to be resubmitted with all the required elements for reevaluation.
- Requires the local health department to categorize a medical exemption as temporary or permanent based on the duration that the contraindication or precaution is expected to last.

(2) Nonmedical Exemptions.

- Authorizes a parent to claim a nonmedical exemption from an immunization requirement for a child for one or more of the required vaccines.
- Requires a parent claiming a nonmedical exemption to complete and submit a Certificate of Immunization Status form to the school administrator, and must submit:
 - (A) Documentation that the parent has completed a vaccine educational module approved by the Public Health Division within the previous 12 months; or
 - (B) Documentation that the parent has discussed with a health care practitioner within the previous 12 months the risks and benefits of immunization consistent with information published by the CDC and consistent with the contents of the vaccine educational module approved by the Public Health Division and contains the signature of the health care practitioner, on a form prescribed by the Oregon Health Authority.
- Requires documentation of the completion of the vaccine educational module to be on a form prescribed by the Public Health Division, Immunization Program.
- Requires documentation of nonmedical exemption to specify the vaccines about which information about the benefits and risks has been provided and for which a nonmedical exemption may be claimed for the child.
- Children over 15 years of age are authorized to complete and sign a documentation of nonmedical exemption without their parents' signature.

Pennsylvania – Religious/Moral/Ethical belief Exemption and Medical Exemption, non-restrictive.

- Vaccine requirements in law for child care and K-12 public, private, and parochial schools.
- Religious, moral, or ethical belief exemptions and medical exemptions are provided in state law and administrative code.
- Medical exemption requires a physician's signature.
- Exemptions are submitted directly to the child care or school; no health department form is required.

State Statutes – [1949 Act 14, §1303 \(c\) & \(d\)](#)

(c) establishes that a child is exempt from vaccine requirements for any public, private, parochial, or other K-12 school if the child's physician certifies that the child has a medical condition that may contraindicate immunization.

(d) establishes that a child is exempt from K-12 vaccine requirements if their parent objects in writing to such immunization on religious grounds.

Administrative Code – Pennsylvania Code; Title 28 Health and Safety; Part III Prevention of Diseases; Chapter 27. Communicable and Noncommunicable Diseases; Subchapter C. Quarantine and Isolation – Communicable Diseases in Children and Staff Attending Schools and Child Care Group Settings; Section 27.77 Immunization requirements for children in child care group settings.

[28 Pa. Code §27.77](#). Immunization requirements for children in child care group settings.

(a) Caregiver responsibilities (1) Caregiver at a child group setting is prohibited from accepting a child 2 months of age or older without proof of vaccination, a written objection to a child being vaccinated on religious grounds from a parent, or written verification from a physician that a vaccination was not given due to medical condition of the child and whether the condition is temporary or permanent.

(b) requires children in child care group settings to be vaccinated in accordance with ACIP standards.

Pennsylvania Code; Title 28 Health and Safety; Chapter 23. School Health; Subchapter C. Immunization; Section 23.84. Exemption from immunization.

[28 Pa. Code §23.84](#). Exemption

- Provides exemptions from the vaccine requirements for all public, private, parochial, or nonpublic K-12 schools.

(a) Medical exemption. Provides an exemption for children if a physician provides a written statement that immunization may be detrimental to the health of the child for a period of time determined by the physician.

(b) Religious exemption. Provides an exemption for children whose parent, guardian, or an emancipated child objects in writing to the immunization on religious grounds or on the basis of a strong moral or ethical conviction similar to a religious belief.

Rhode Island – Religious and Medical Exemptions, restrictive medical (who can sign & ACIP contraindications required) and non-restrictive Religious.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions are provided in state statute for all child care, preschool, K-12, and higher education attendance.
- All exemptions must be submitted to the school on Department of Health Forms.
- Medical exemption form [HERE](#)
- Religious exemption form [HERE](#).
- In process, temporary exemption form [HERE](#).
- The history of some diseases will satisfy the vaccine requirement.
- A medical exemption can only be signed by an MD, PA, or ARNP (advanced registered nurse practitioner).

- Medical exemption must include contraindications or precautions established by ACIP.
- Exempt students can be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak.

State Statute – Rhode Island General Laws; Title 16 Education; Chapter 16-38 Offenses Pertaining to Schools; Section 16-38-2. Immunization.

[General Laws 16 §16-38-2](#)

- Requires vaccination for every person entering any public or private school, including any college or university in the state.
- Provides an exemption for a person who submits to the head of the school a certificate from a licensed physician stating that the person is not a fit subject for immunization for medical reasons
- Provides an exemption for a person 18 years of age, or a person's parent if a minor, stating that immunization for communicable diseases is contrary to that person's religious beliefs.

Administrative Code – Rhode Island Code of Regulations (RICR); Title 216 Department of Health; Chapter 30 Infectious Disease; Subchapter 05 Infectious Disease; Part 3 Immunization and communicable disease testing in preschool, school, colleges, or universities

[216-RICR-30-05-3](#)

- Provides two reasons for exemptions from required vaccinations for preschool, school, and higher education:
 - a. A physician, physician assistant, a certified registered nurse practitioner, or other licensed practitioner acting within his/her scope of practice signs the [Rhode Island Department of Health's "Medical Immunization Exemption Certificate"](#) provided by the school attesting that the student is exempt from a specific vaccine requirement because of medical reasons, in accordance with ACIP recommendations; or
 - b. A parent or guardian completes and signs the [Department's "Religious Immunization Exemption Certificate"](#) provided by the school, attesting that immunization conflicts with the tenets of their religious beliefs.
- The Rhode Island Department of Health website also offers a ["Temporary Immunization Exemption Certificate"](#) for use in public and private daycare, preschool, school & college for students who are in the process of obtaining required vaccinations.

South Carolina – Religious and Medical Exemptions, non-restrictive Religious but required department form, semi-restrictive medical (who can sign).

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions provided in statute and administrative code apply to all public, private, and parochial child care and K-12 schools.
- Religious exemption forms must be obtained from the local health department and submitted directly to the school or child care.
- Medical exemption forms must be completed by a licensed physician on Department forms and submitted directly to the school or child care.
- Children can be excluded from child care and school in the event of an outbreak.

- No specific higher education vaccine requirements in state law or administrative code.

State Statutes – South Carolina Code of Law; Title 44 Health; Chapter 29 Contagious and Infectious Diseases; Section 180. School pupils and day care center children to be vaccinated or immunized; department to monitor records of children in day care; exemptions and exclusions.

[SC Code §44-29-180](#). Exemptions

- Requires vaccination as a condition of attendance and enrollment for all public, private, or parochial K-12 schools and licensed public, private, and church/religious child care facilities.

(C) Establishes that the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control [Regulation 61-8](#) (p. 122) exemptions apply to this code.

Administrative Code – South Carolina Code of Regulations; Chapter 61 Department of Environmental Services; Regulation 61-8. Immunization requirements for school and childcare attendance.

[SC COR 61-8](#).

Requires a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization signed by a licensed physician for attendance or enrollment in any public, private, or parochial school K-12, or any public or private childcare facility.

II. Exemptions.

1. Medical Exemption.

A Medical exemption may be granted when a licensed physician has determined, for medical reasons, that a particular vaccine(s) required by this regulation is not advisable for the child.

The exemption is granted when the physician or his/her authorized representative completes and signs the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization containing the Medical Exemption.

The physician must indicate whether the exemption is permanent or temporary.

If the exemption is temporary, an updated South Carolina Certificate of Immunization showing proof of immunization must be presented to the school or childcare by the end of the exemption period.

2. Religious Exemption.

A South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption may be granted to any student whose parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis signs the appropriate section of the South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption stating that one or more of the immunizations conflicts with their religious beliefs.

The Certificate of Religious Exemption form may only be obtained from the local health department.

3. Special Exemption. (Vaccination in process or awaiting records)

A South Carolina Certificate of Special Exemption, signed by the school principal, authorized representative, or childcare director, may be issued to transfer students while awaiting arrival of medical records from their former area of

residence or to other students who have been unable to secure immunizations or documentation of immunizations already received.

At the expiration of this special exemption, the student must present a valid South Carolina Certificate of Immunization, or a valid South Carolina Certificate of Medical Exemption, or a valid South Carolina Certificate of Religious Exemption.

Completion of the Medical Exemption section of the Certificate of Immunization satisfies the requirement for the South Carolina Certificate of Medical Exemption.

South Dakota – Religious and Medical Exemption, Religious non-restrictive, Medical semi-restrictive (who can sign)

- Vaccinations and Exemptions are provided in state statute for all public and private early childhood education, K-12, and higher education.
- Religious and Medical exemptions are provided in the state statute.
- Exemption documents are submitted directly to the school or child care administrator.
- Medical exemptions are required to be completed by a licensed physician and on the department form.
- Religious exemptions require a parent's signature and can be submitted on a department form or a signed statement by the parent submitted directly to the school or child care administrator.
- Religious exemption form for child care [HERE](#).
- Certificate of Immunization form for K-12, with check boxes for exemptions [HERE](#).

State Statute – South Dakota Codified Laws; Title 13 Education; Chapter 28 School Attendance Privileges and Tuition; Section 7.1. Immunization required for admission to school or early childhood program – exceptions – rules.

SD Codified Laws §13-28-7.1

- Requires immunization certification for any child entering school or an early childhood program in the state.
- Provides exemptions for medical and religious reasons, as follows:
 1. Certification from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child would be such that immunization would endanger the child's life or health; or
 2. A written statement signed by one parent or guardian that the child is an adherent of a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunization.

State Statute – South Dakota Codified Laws; Title 13 Education; Chapter 53 Administration of State Institutions; Section 47. Immunizations required for students entering public or private postsecondary educational institutions – alternatives.

SD Codified Laws §13-53-47.

- Requires immunization certification for any person entering a public or private postsecondary institution in this state.
- Provides exemptions for medical and religious reasons, as follows:

- (1) Certification from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the student would be such that immunization would endanger the student's life or health;
- (2) Certification from a licensed physician stating the student has experienced the natural disease against which the immunization protects;
- (3) Confirmation from a laboratory of the presence of adequate immunity; or
- (4) A written statement signed by the student that the student is an adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to such immunizations. If the student is under the age of 18, the written statement shall be signed by one parent or guardian.

Administrative Code – South Dakota Administrative Rules; Rule 44:81 Department of Health – Immunization Requirements for School Entry; Section 44:81:06:01 Exemptions to vaccination.

§44:81:06:01. Exemptions

- A medical exemption pursuant to SDCL 13-28-7.1 requires the signature of a physician licensed pursuant to SDCL chapter 36-4.
- The signature shall be on the South Dakota Department of Health - Certificate of Immunization form.
- A religious exemption pursuant to SDCL [13-28-7.1](#) requires the signature of the parent or guardian on the South Dakota Department of Health - Certificate of Immunization form **or** a signed statement by the parent or guardian stating that the child is adherent to a religious doctrine whose teachings are opposed to immunization.
- The school or early childhood program is required to collect the exemption documents and submit them to the department no later than November 1 of the current school year or within 45 days of transferring into the school district.

Tennessee – Religious and Medical Exemptions, restrictive medical (ACIP or package insert contraindications) and non-restrictive religious

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions are provided in state statute and administrative code, and exemptions apply to all public and private child care, K-12, and higher ed requirements.
- Religious and Medical exemptions are provided in statute.
- Medical exemptions are restricted through administrative rule by requiring medical exemptions to be based on ACIP contraindications or FDA vaccine package inserts.
- Religious exemptions are not restrictive; they are based on religious tenets and practices.
- Religious does not require the use of a department form.
- Medical requires the use of a department form obtained online by authorized users of the state Immunization Information System or a hard copy at the health department.

State Statute – Tennessee Code Annotated; Title 49 Education; Chapter 6 Elementary and Secondary Education; Part 50 Immunization of School Children; Section 49-6-5001. General provisions.

[§49-6-5001.](#)

Requires vaccination for attendance at any school, nursery school, kindergarten, preschool, or child care facility in the state.

(b)(2) provides an exemption for a child whose parent or guardian files with school authorities a signed, written statement that the immunization and other preventive measures conflict with the parent's or guardian's religious tenets and practices, affirmed under the penalties of perjury.

(b)(3) prohibits SARS-CoV-2 vaccine from being required under this section.

(c)(2) provides an exemption for a child if they have not been immunized due to medical reasons if the child has a written statement from the child's doctor excusing the child from immunization.

(c)(3) provides an exemption for a child who has not been immunized or is unable to produce immunization records due to being homeless.

(e) establishes that any immunization specified under this part shall not be required if a qualified physician certifies that administration of the immunization would be in any manner harmful to the child involved.

Administrative Code – Tennessee Compilation of Rules and Regulations; Title 1200 Department of Health; Chapter 1200-14 Bureau of Health Services Administration; Chapter 1200-14-01 Communicable and Environmental Diseases; Section 1200-14-02-.29 Immunization against certain diseases prior to school attendance in Tennessee.

[§1200-14-01-.29.](#)

- Requires every nursery school, day care center, Head Start center, Kindergarten, or other pre-school, day care or grades K-12 of any public, private, or church related school, universities, and colleges to obtain proof of adequate immunization against diphtheria, measles (rubeola), pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B and tetanus on the form prescribed by the Commissioner.
- Requires the Department of Health to publish an official Certificate of Immunization. This certificate can be signed by an individual licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Osteopathic Examiners, or an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse licensed by the Board of Nursing or by a public health nurse employed by a local health department.
- Certificates are available online to Tennessee Immunization Registry authorized users or in hard copy to providers from local health departments or the Department's central office.

(18) Authorizes an individual to be exempted from the vaccine requirements in this section under the following circumstances:

- (a) Where a physician licensed by the Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Osteopathic Examiners, or a public health nurse employed by a local Health

Department determines that a particular vaccine is contraindicated for one of the following reasons:

1. The individual meets the criteria for contraindication set forth in the manufacturer's vaccine package insert; or
2. The individual meets the criteria for contraindication published by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control or the ACIP;
3. In the best professional judgment of the physician, based upon the individual's medical condition and history, the risk of harm from the vaccine outweighs the potential benefit.

(c) Where a parent or guardian, or in the case of an adult student, the student, provides to the school a written statement, affirmed under penalties of perjury, that vaccination conflicts with the religious tenets and practices of the parent or guardian, or in the case of an adult student, the student.

Texas – Reasons of Conscience, including religious, and Medical Exemptions, medical restrictions (who can sign & annual renewal), restrictive affidavit form request process removed by 2025 legislation.

- [HB 1586](#) enacted 6/20/2025, requires the Department of State Health Services to provide a downloadable affidavit form on the department website for individuals to use for a reasons of conscience exemption rather than requesting the form by mail with long wait times. This will be effective 9/1/2025.
- Vaccine requirements and exemptions in statute for all children and students, including child care, public and private K-12, and higher education.
- Medical exemptions must only be signed by an MD or DO.
- Conscientious belief exemptions must be on the department affidavit form, signed, and notarized.
- Reasons of conscience belief exemptions are valid for only 2 years.
- Medical exemptions are valid for only 1 year.

State Statute – Texas Statutes; Health and Safety Code; Title 2 Health; Subtitle H Public Health Provisions; Chapter 161. Public Health Provisions; Section 161.004 Statewide immunization of children & Section 161.0041 Immunization exemption affidavit form.

§161.004 Statewide immunization of children.

- Requires every child in the state to be immunized against certain infectious diseases.
- Assigns responsibility to hospitals and physicians for ensuring children are being referred for or administered immunization.
- Exempts a child from immunization required by this section if:
 - (1) a parent, conservator, or guardian states that the immunization is being declined for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief; or
 - (2) the immunization is medically contraindicated based on the opinion of a physician licensed by any state in the US who has examined the child.

§161.0041 Immunization exemption affidavit form.

- Requires a person claiming an exemption from required vaccinations based on reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, under Section [161.004](#) of this code, Section [38.001](#), [51.9192](#), or [51.933](#) Education code, or [Section 42.043](#) Human Resources code, to complete an affidavit on a form provided by the department stating the reason for the exemption.
- This does not apply to a person claiming the exemption using the Internet-based process under Section [51.9192](#) (d-3) Education Code.
 - (b) The affidavit must be signed by the person claiming the exemption or, if the person is a minor, the person's parent, managing conservator, or guardian, and the affidavit must be notarized.
 - (c) A person claiming an exemption from a required immunization under this section may only obtain the affidavit form by submitting a written request for the affidavit form to the department.

Texas Education Code; Title 2 Public Education; Subtitle G Safe Schools; Chapter 38 Health and Safety; Subchapter A General Provisions; Section 38.001 Immunization requirements, exceptions

[§38.001 Immunization requirements, exceptions](#) (K-12).

- Provides immunization requirements and exemptions for any elementary or secondary school.
- Medical exemption must be submitted on an affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the US, stating that the immunization required poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household.
- Conscientious belief, including religious belief, exemption must be a completed affidavit signed by the applicant or the applicant's parent or guardian stating that the applicant declines immunization for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief
- Authorized exempt students to be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the Commissioner of Public Health.

[§51.933. Immunization requirements, exemptions](#) (higher education).

- Authorizes institutions of higher education to require immunizations against certain diseases as a condition of attendance.
- Provides medical and conscientious belief exemption, including religious beliefs (same as K-12 code), for students attending higher education institutions.
- Exemptions do not apply during times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of state health services.

[§42.043. Rules for immunizations](#) (child care/ Human Resources code).

- Requires the Department of Family and Protective Services to require immunizations for each child to attend a child care facility in this state.
- Provides medical and conscientious belief, including religious belief, exemptions (same as K-12) for children attending state-regulated child care facilities.

Administrative Code – Texas Administrative Code (TAC); Title 25 Health Services; Part 1 Department of State Health Services; Chapter 97 Communicable Diseases;

Subchapter B Immunization Requirements in Texas Elementary and Secondary Schools and Institutions of Higher Education; Rule §97.62 Exclusions from Compliance.

[§97.62 Exclusion from compliance.](#)

- Authorizes exclusions for medical contraindications, reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, and active duty with the armed forces of the US.
- Children in these categories must submit evidence for exclusion from compliance as specified in the Health and Safety Code §161.004(d), Health and Safety Code, §161.0041, Education Code, Chapter 38, Education Code, Chapter 51, and the Human Resources Code, Chapter 42.
- Medical Exemption: To claim a medical exemption, the child or student must present an exemption statement to the school or child-care facility with the following requirements:
 - Dated and signed by a physician (M.D. or D.O.), properly licensed and in good standing in any state in the United States, who has examined the child or student.
 - The statement must state that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child or student or any member of the child's or student's household.
 - Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.
- Reasons of Conscience, including religious belief, exemption: To claim an exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, the child's parent, legal guardian, or a student 18 years of age or older must do the following:
 - Present to the school or child-care facility a completed, signed, and notarized affidavit on a form provided by the department
 - The form must state that the child's parent, legal guardian, or the student declines vaccinations for reasons of conscience, including because of the person's religious beliefs.
 - The affidavit will be valid for a two-year period from the date of notarization.
 - A child or student who has not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs, may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of the department.

Utah – Religious/Personal belief and Medical Exemption, non-restrictive language, restrictive administrative process for obtaining exemptions.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions in statute apply to all public, private, elementary, or secondary school K-12, nursery school or kindergarten, licensed day care center, child care facility, family home care, or Head Start program in this state.

- Religious/Personal belief exemption and Medical exemption provided by state statute.
- Restrictive administrative process set by an Administrative rule regarding obtaining medical or nonmedical exemption forms.
- State code doesn't specify which type of health care provider can sign a medical exemption, but other Utah sources say MD, DO, PA, NP/APRN can sign.

State Statute – Utah Code; Title 53G Public Education System; Chapter 9 Health and Welfare; Part 3 Immunization Requirements; Section 303 Grounds for exemption from required vaccines.

[§53G-9-303. Grounds for exemption from required vaccines.](#)

(1) Exempts a student from required vaccines for public school if they qualify for a medical exemption.

(2) Medical exemptions require a student's parent to provide a completed vaccination exemption form and a written notice signed by a licensed health care provider stating that, due to the physical condition of the student, administration of the vaccine would endanger the student's life or health.

(3) Personal exemptions require a student's parent to provide a completed vaccination exemption form, stating that the student is exempt from the vaccination because of a personal or religious belief.

(4) Requires the vaccination exemption form to remain valid for as long as the student remains enrolled in the public education system and to stay part of the student's permanent school record, including transferring schools.

[§53G-9-304. Vaccination exemption form](#)

(3) (a) Requires an individual seeking an exemption to complete the online education module described in Section [26B-7-118](#) that permits the individual to complete any requirements online and download and print the vaccine exemption form immediately upon completion of the requirements.

(3) (b) authorizes an individual seeking an exemption to decline to take the online education module and obtain a vaccination exemption form from a local health department, requiring the person to receive an in-person consultation with a health official and pay any fees for this consultation, up to \$25.00.

Administrative Code – Utah Administrative Rules; Health and Human Services; Disease Control and Prevention, Immunization; Rule 100. Immunization rule for students.

[R396-100](#). Immunization rule for students.

R396-100-5. Exemptions.

(1) A legally responsible individual of a student claiming an exemption to immunization for medical, religious, or personal reasons, as allowed by [Section 53G-9-303](#), shall provide to the student's school or early childhood program the exemption form as set forth and required in Section 53G-9-304.

(2) Also, to qualify for the exemption, the school or early childhood program shall attach the Section 26B-7-118 Health Education form to the student's USIR, indicating the

parent received the required health education by online module or from an authorized local health authority.

Vermont – Religious and Medical Exemption, Religious requires annual renewal, semi-restrictive administrative process.

- *Philosophical exemption to vaccination removed in 2015 with [H98](#); effective 7/1/2016.*
- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to all child care and public and private K-12 schools.
- Religious and Medical exemptions are provided for in state law for all public and independent (private) school and child care vaccine requirements.
- Religious exemptions have to be submitted to the school/child care facility annually on Department forms [HERE](#).
- Medical exemption forms must be completed and signed by a health care practitioner who is authorized to prescribe vaccines, form [HERE](#).

State Statute – Vermont Statutes Annotated (VSA); Title 18 Health; Chapter 21 Communicable Diseases; Subchapter 4 Immunization; Section 1121. Immunizations required prior to attending school and child care facilities.

[18 VSA §1121. Immunizations required](#)

Requires immunization as a condition of enrollment in a Vermont school or child care facility.

[18 VSA §1122. Exemptions.](#)

Provides three exemption types for a child in school or child care in the state:

(1) Temporary medical exemption for a child who is in the process of completing the required immunizations. Requires a form signed by a licensed health care practitioner.

(2) Medical exemption: Provides a medical exemption option for a child whose licensed health care practitioner, who is authorized to prescribe vaccines, certifies in writing that a specific vaccine is or may be detrimental to the person's health.

The health care practitioner must specify the required immunization in question and the probable duration of the condition or circumstance that may be detrimental to the child's health.

Any exemption certified under this subsection shall terminate when the condition cited no longer applies.

(3) Religious Beliefs: Provides a religious belief exemption option for a child whose parent or guardian annually provides a signed statement to the school or child care facility on a form created by the Department that states the person (A) holds a religious belief opposed to immunization; and (B) has reviewed evidence-based educational material provided by the department regarding vaccinations, including the following:

- (i) information about the risks of adverse reactions to immunization;

- (ii) information that failure to complete the required vaccination schedule increases risk to the person and others of contracting or carrying a vaccine-preventable infectious disease; and
- (iii) information that there are persons with special health needs attending schools and child care facilities who are unable to be vaccinated or who are at heightened risk of contracting a vaccine-preventable communicable disease and for whom such a disease could be life-threatening.

This subsection also authorizes the Department of Health to provide by rule for further exemptions to immunization based on sound medical practice.

[18 VSA §1123](#). Immunization rules

Authorizes the Department of Health to promulgate rules related to vaccine requirements and exemptions.

Administrative Code – Code of Vermont Rules; Agency 13 Agency of Human Services; Sub-Agency 140. Department of Health; Chapter 021. Immunization; Chapter 4, Subchapter 4; Rule 13-140-021. Immunization.

[13-140-021. Immunization](#).

Establishes minimum vaccine requirements for attendance at child care facilities, pre-K, public or independent kindergartens, elementary, secondary, and postsecondary schools.

6.1 Medical Exemptions: requires a person's parent or guardian to present a Department-published form, signed by a health care practitioner authorized to prescribe vaccines, certifying that a specific immunization is or may be detrimental to the person's health.

The practitioner shall specify the required immunization in question, as well as the probable duration of the condition or circumstance that is or may be detrimental to the person's health.

Any exemption certified under this subdivision shall terminate when the condition or circumstance cited no longer applies.

Any child care facility or school receiving a form as required by this section shall store the form as part of the child's or student's immunization record.

6.2 Religious Exemptions: requires the person's parent or guardian to annually provide a signed statement to the school or child care facility on a Department-published form, indicating that the person, parent, or guardian:

- 6.2.1 holds religious beliefs opposed to immunizations; and
- 6.2.2 has reviewed the evidence-based educational material provided by the Department regarding immunizations, including certain information about the dangers of NOT vaccinating.

Virginia – Religious and Medical exemptions, semi-restrictive (who can sign) and religious must be notarized on department form.

- Vaccine and exemption requirements apply to all children in the state, including home school, child care, and public or private K-12.
- Medical and Religious exemptions are provided by state statute.

- Religious exemptions must be on a signed & notarized Department form [CRE-1](#).
- Medical exemptions must be provided in writing by an authorized licensed physician, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a local health department and include specifics about the duration of exemption and contraindications.
- Medical exemptions can be on a written certification from a provider or on the department form [MCH 213G](#).
- Exempt students can be excluded from school by the commissioner during an outbreak, potential epidemic, or epidemic of “vaccine-preventable” disease in a public or private school.
- HPV vaccine is not required for school attendance.

State Statutes – Code of Virginia; Title 22.1 Education; Chapter 14 Pupils; Article 2 Health Provisions; Section 22.1-271.2. Immunization requirements.

[§ 22.1-271.2. Health Requirements for School Admission](#)

Requires vaccination for school attendance.

B. Provides a conditional enrollment statute for any child whose immunizations are incomplete, having had at least one dose of each required vaccine for a period of 180 calendar days.

C. Provides exemptions for religious and medical reasons:

- (i) exempts a student if the student or his parent submits an affidavit to the admitting official stating that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student’s religious tenets or practices; or
- (ii) exempts a student if the student provides written certification from a licensed physician, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a local health department that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student’s health, indicating the specific nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization.

This section also provides exemption provisions for a homeless youth.

Code of Virginia; Title 22.1 Education; Chapter 14 Pupils; Article 2 Health Provisions; Section 22.1-271.4. Health requirements for home-instructed, exempted, and excused children.

[§ 22.1-271.4. Immunization requirements for home-instructed, exempted, and excused children](#)

- Requires any parent of a child being home instructed, exempted, or excused from school attendance to comply with the vaccine requirements provided in [Section 32.1-46](#) in the same manner and extent as if the child has been enrolled in and is attending school.
- Requires a parent to submit to a division superintendent upon request proof of immunization in compliance with §32.1-46.
- Provides exemptions from vaccine requirements for a child who submits (i) affidavit stating that the administration of a vaccine conflicts with the parent’s or guardian’s religious tenets or practices; or (ii) a written certification from a

licensed physician, licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or local health department that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the child's health, indicating the specific nature of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization.

Code of Virginia; Title 32.1 Health; Chapter 2. Disease Prevention and Control; Article 3. Disease Control Measures; Section 32.1-46. Immunization of patients against certain diseases.

[§32.1-46. Immunization of patients against certain diseases.](#)

Requires each parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis to vaccinate each child in accordance with the vaccine schedule developed and published by the CDC, ACIP, AAP, and AAFP.

The required immunizations for attendance at a public or private elementary, middle or secondary school, child care center, nursery school, family day care home, or developmental center shall be those set forth in the State Board of Health Regulations for the immunization of school children.

D. Provides exemptions to the vaccine requirements if:

1. The parent or guardian of the child objects thereto on the grounds that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with his religious tenets or practices, unless an emergency or epidemic of disease has been declared by the Board;
2. The parent or guardian presents a statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine in Virginia, a licensed advanced practice registered nurse, or a local health department that states that the physical condition of the child is such that the administration of one or more of the required immunizing agents would be detrimental to the health of the child; or
3. Because the human papillomavirus is not communicable in a school setting, a parent or guardian, at the parent's or guardian's sole discretion, may elect for the parent's or guardian's child not to receive the human papillomavirus vaccine, after having reviewed materials describing the link between the human papillomavirus and cervical cancer approved for such use by the Board.

Administrative Code – Virginia Administrative Code (VAC); Title 12 Health; Agency 5 Department of Health; Chapter 110. Regulations for the Immunization of School Children; Part III. Immunization Requirements; Section 80 Exemptions from immunization requirements.

[12VAC 5-110-80](#) (Exemptions)

A. Religious and medical exemptions. No certificate of immunization shall be required of any student for admission to school if:

1. The student or his parent or guardian submits a notarized Certificate of Religious Exemption ([Form CRE 1](#)), to the admitting official of the school to which the student is seeking admission. Form CRE 1 is an affidavit stating that the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the student's religious tenets or practices. The form is available on the Division of Immunization website at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements>; or

2. The school has written certification on either of the documents specified under “documentary proof” in [12VAC5-110-10](#) from a physician, registered nurse, or a local health department that one or more of the required immunizations may be detrimental to the student’s health. Such certification of medical exemption shall specify the nature and probable duration of the medical condition or circumstance that contraindicates immunization.

Requires written certification from a physician or a local health department form [MCH 213 F](#).

3. Upon the identification of an outbreak, potential epidemic, or epidemic of a vaccine-preventable disease in a public or private school, the commissioner has the authority to require the exclusion from such school of all children who are not immunized against that disease.

B. Demonstration of existing immunity. The demonstration in a student of antibodies against mumps, measles, rubella, or varicella in sufficient quantity to ensure protection of that student against that disease shall render that student exempt from the immunization requirements contained in [12VAC5-110-70](#) for the disease in question. Such protection should be demonstrated by means of a serological testing method appropriate for measuring protective antibodies against mumps, measles, rubella, or varicella, respectively. A reliable history of chickenpox disease diagnosed or verified by a health care provider shall render students exempt from varicella requirements.

C. HPV vaccine. Because the human papillomavirus is not communicable in a school setting, a parent or guardian, at the parent’s or guardian’s sole discretion, may elect for the parent’s or guardian’s child not to receive the HPV vaccine, after having reviewed materials describing the link between the human papillomavirus and cervical cancer approved for such use by the board.

Washington – Religious, Philosophical/Personal, and Medical Exemptions, must use department form, and nonmedical exemptions require a practitioner’s signature

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions for child care and public and private K-12 education.
- No higher education vaccine requirements in state statute.
- State statute provides Personal/Philosophical, Religious, and Medical exemptions for K-12 and childcare.
- Exemptions (all 3) must be submitted to the school or childcare center on a Department of Health Certificate of Exemption (COE) form available on the Department webpage [HERE](#).
- Exemptions do not expire unless a temporary medical exemption is issued, and it remains part of the student’s permanent school record.
- Religious and Personal/Philosophical belief exemptions must be signed by a health care provider (MD, DO, ND, PA, ARNP) who attests to discussing risks and benefits of vaccination with the parent.
- Medical exemption can be signed by MD, DO, ND (naturopath), PA, or ARNP.

- [EHB 1638](#) enacted in 2019, removed personal and philosophical belief exemptions to the MMR vaccine. Religious belief exemptions still apply.
- Schools and childcare are required to maintain a list of “susceptible students” for exclusion during an outbreak.
- Local health officer authorized to exclude exempt “susceptible” students during outbreak of communicable disease.

State Statutes – Revised Code of Washington (RCW); Title 28A Common School Provisions; Chapter 210 Health – Screening and Requirements; Section 28A.210.090 Immunization program – exemptions.

[RCW 28A.210.090 – Immunization program – exemptions](#)

(1) Provides an exemption from public and private K-12 school and child care requirements for a child who presents any one or more of the certifications required by this section on a form prescribed by the Department of Health:

(a) Medical exemption: A written certification signed by a health care practitioner that a particular vaccine required by rule of the State Board of Health is not advisable for the child: PROVIDED, that when it is determined that this particular vaccine is no longer contraindicated, the child will be required to have the vaccine;

(b) Religious belief exemption: A written certification signed by any parent or legal guardian of the child or any adult in loco parentis to the child that the religious beliefs of the signator are contrary to the required immunization measures; or

(c) Philosophical/Personal Objection exemption: A written certification signed by any parent or guardian of the child or any adult in loco parentis to the child that the signator has either a philosophical or personal objection to the immunization of the child.

Prohibits a philosophical or personal exemption from being used to exempt a child from the measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine requirement.

(2)(a) Requires the form presented to the school or child care (after July 22, 2011) to include a statement signed by a health care practitioner that he or she provided the signator with information about the benefits and risks of immunization to the child.

The form is authorized to be signed by a health care practitioner at any time prior to the enrollment of the child in a school or licensed day care.

Photocopies of the signed form or a letter from the health care practitioner referencing the child’s name shall be accepted in lieu of the original form.

(b) provides liability protection from civil liability for a health care provider who signs the exemption form.

(c) exempts a parent or guardian from the health care provider signature requirement on the form if the parent or legal guardian demonstrates membership in a religious body or a church in which religious beliefs or teachings of the church preclude a health care practitioner from providing medical treatment to the child.

(3) Defines “health care practitioner” for purposes of this section as a physician licensed (MD or DO) under chapter [18.71](#) or [18.57](#) RCW, a naturopath licensed under [18.36A](#)

RCW, a physician assistant licensed under Chapter [18.71A](#) RCW, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under chapter [18.79](#) RCW.

Administrative Code – Washington Administrative Code (WAC)

Washington Administrative Code (WAC); Title 246 Department of Health; Chapter 105 Immunization of Child Care and School Children Against Certain Vaccine-Preventable Diseases; Section 020 Definitions.

WAC 246-105-020 — Definitions

- “child care center” is defined as any facility or center licensed by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families under Chapter 43.216 RCW that regularly provides early childhood education and early learning services for a group of children for periods of less than 24 hours per day.
- “health care practitioner” means a licensed physician (MD or DO), licensed naturopath, physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse.
- “school” means a facility, site, or campus for programs of education as defined in [RCW 28A.210.070](#) (public and private) to include preschool and K-12.

WAC 246-105-050 — Required Documentation of Immunization Status

(1)(a) requires proof of immunization status using either a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form or a Certificate of Exemption (COE) form, or both, as a condition of attending a school or child care center.

(b) exemption for a student experiencing homelessness under 42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq., or in foster care under 20 U.S.C. 6311(g)(1)(E) lacking documentation on or before the first day of attendance to be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in school activities.

(2) The CIS form provides a section to document serologic proof of immunity signed by a health care provider.

(4) Requires a parent seeking an exemption to provide a completed Certificate of Exemption (COE) form signed by a parent.

WAC 246-105-055 — Philosophical/Personal Exemption Prohibition for MMR

- Prohibits a philosophical or personal exemption from being used to exempt a child from the measles, mumps, and rubella immunization requirement.

WAC 246-105-060 — Duties of Schools and Child Care Centers

(3)(b) Requires schools and child care centers to keep or be able to produce within 24 hours a current list of children who are not fully immunized to be transmitted to the local health department upon request.

(d) requires schools and child care centers to provide access to immunization records to agents of the state or local health department of each child enrolled.

WAC 246-105-080 — Criteria for Exclusion

(4) Authorizes a local health officer to exclude a child from school or a child care center under chapter 246-110 WAC during an outbreak of a “vaccine-preventable” disease if the child has not been fully immunized against that disease due to:

- (a) Conditional status; (b) Out of compliance status; (c) Medical exemption; (d) Religious exemption; (e) Philosophical exemption; or (f) Personal exemption

WAC 110-300-0210 — Early Learning Providers (Licensed Childcare)

- Requires parents to provide proof of vaccination via a CIS or COE form, current immunization record from the Washington state immunization information system (WA IIS), or acquired immunity for diseases under RCW [43.216.690](#) and Chapter [246-105](#) WAC.
- This section also authorizes an early learning provider to accept children without proof of vaccinations or immunity.
- Subsection (8) authorizes early learning providers to adopt a written policy that children exempted from immunization by their parent or guardian will not be accepted into care unless that exemption is due to an illness protected by the ADA or WLAD or by a completed and signed Certificate of Exemption.

West Virginia – Medical Exemption only, extremely restrictive medical exemption process with state health officer determination; Religious exemption process established by 2025 Executive Order, not in statute or administrative code.

- Vaccine requirements apply to all public, private, and parochial K-12 attendance and state-regulated child care.
- Medical exemption is provided for in the state statute; no statutory protection for religious exemption.
- Religious exemption process created by Governor Morrisey's 1/14/2025 [Executive Order 7-25](#) requires the Bureau for Public Health to establish a process for religious objections to compulsory school vaccines. That process is in effect and posted on the State Office of Epidemiology and Prevention Services website [HERE](#).
- The religious exemption process requires parents to send a signed letter to a dedicated email account, which will be processed on a school-year basis, and an exemption letter will be provided to the school where the student is to be enrolled.
- Parents are required to request a religious exemption through this process annually.
- Medical exemption process is extremely restrictive and requires the physician to request that the Immunization Officer approve the reasoning for the exemption and burdens the physician with supplying ample supporting evidence to justify the exemption. Immunization Officer can determine yes or no, and the State Health Officer can review the determination and have final say.

State Statute – West Virginia Code; Chapter 16 Public Health; Article 3. Prevention and Control of Communicable and Other Infectious Diseases; Section 4. Compulsory immunization of school children.

§16-3-4. Compulsory immunization of school children.

Requires certain vaccinations for all children entering any public, private, or parochial K-12 school and state-regulated child care center in the state.

(c) Prohibits a child from being admitted in any of the schools or state-regulated child care centers until they have been immunized or produce a certificate of exemption from the Public Health Bureau Commissioner.

(d) requires a school or child care employee to report to the commissioner information concerning any person who attempts to be enrolled in school or child care without having been immunized.

(e) authorizes provisional enrollment with criteria set by the commissioner of persons completing vaccine requirements if they have at least one dose of each required vaccine.

(h) authorizes the commissioner to grant, renew, condition, deny, suspend, or revoke exemptions to the compulsory immunization requirements of this section on a statewide basis upon sufficient medical evidence.

(h) (1) requires a request for an exemption to the compulsory vaccine requirements to be accompanied by the certification of a licensed physician stating that the physical condition of the child is such that immunization is contraindicated or there exists a specific precaution to a particular vaccine.

(h) (2) authorizes the commissioner to appoint and employ an Immunization Officer to make determinations on requests for an exemption to vaccine requirements on a statewide basis.

(i) provides a criminal penalty of a misdemeanor and a fine of not more than \$100 for a physician who provides any person with a false certificate of immunization.

West Virginia Code; Chapter 16 Public Health; Article 3. Prevention and Control of Communicable and Other Infectious Diseases; Section 4b. Required exemptions to compulsory immunization against COVID-19 as a condition of employment.

[§16-3-4b Required exemptions to COVID-19](#)

(a) Requires a “covered employer,” defined as any government or private business operating in the state with employees, to exempt current or prospective employees from any COVID-19 vaccine requirements upon the presentation of one of the following certifications:

(1) a medical certification signed by a licensed physician or a licensed advanced practice registered nurse who has conducted an in-person examination of the individual and determined the COVID-19 vaccine to be contraindicated, a precaution exists, or the individual has COVID-19 antibodies from exposure; or

(2) a notarized religious statement that the individual’s religious beliefs prevent the individual from taking the COVID-19 vaccine.

(b) Prohibits the employer from penalizing or discriminating against the current or prospective employee for exercising exemption rights.

(d) Exempts employees from the protections who are required to work in Medicare or Medicaid-certified facilities, whose employers are subject to federal regulations contrary to the requirements of this section.

Administrative Code – West Virginia Administrative Law; Health; Title 64 Interpretive Rule Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau for Public Health; Series 95 Immunization requirements and recommendations for children attending school and enrolled in state-regulated child care; Section 64-95-15. Proof of Immunity.

[§64-95-16](#). (p.14) Eligibility for a Medical Exemption.

- Requires the Immunization Officer to determine that the child, on whose behalf his or her physician has made a request for an exemption, is eligible for and issue an exemption, upon sufficient medical evidence that an immunization is contraindicated or there exists a specific precaution to a particular vaccine.

[§64-95-17](#). (p. 14) Eligibility Process.

17.1. Request. Requires a physician to complete a “Request for Medical Exemption from Compulsory Immunization” available at the Department of Health and Human Resources Medical Exemption Resource Center website: [HERE](#). Form PDF [HERE](#).

17.1 through 17.8 provide the process through which the physician has to request the exemption, provide supporting documentation of contraindication or precaution, and how the Immunization Officer will determine if the physician’s opinion and supporting evidence are valid. It also provides the process for the determination of a preliminary exemption, final exemption, review of the final determination process, State Health Officer review, and the effect of the State Health Officer’s review.

Wisconsin – Religious, Personal Conviction, and Medical Exemptions, non-restrictive, Medical semi-restrictive (who can sign).

- Vaccine requirements and exemption waivers apply to all public and nonpublic schools and child care; no higher education exemptions in statute.
- State statute provides Religious, Personal Conviction, and Medical exemptions.
- Exemption “waivers” must be submitted to the school or child care center using the health department form [HERE](#).
- The medical exemption waiver does not require listed contraindications or precautions, but must be signed by a physician.
- Exempt students can be excluded from school/child care during an outbreak.

State Statute – Wisconsin Statutes; Chapter 252 Communicable Diseases; Section 252.04 Immunization Program.

[§252.04. Immunization program.](#)

(1) Requires the Department of Health Services to create a statewide immunization program to eliminate mumps, measles, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis, and other diseases that the department specifies by rule, and to protect against tetanus.

(2) Requires any student admitted to any elementary, middle, junior, or senior high school or into any child care center or nursery school to provide written evidence to the school or child care center of having completed the first immunization for each vaccine required for the student’s grad and being on schedule for the remainder of the series specified by the department.

(3) Exempts the student from the requirement if the student’s parent or guardian submits a written statement to the school or child care center objecting to the immunization for reasons of health, religion, or personal conviction.

This subsection also requires the school or child care center to inform the parent of the right to an exemption waiver any time the school or child care center notifies the parent of the vaccine requirements.

(7) Authorizes the department to exclude students who are not immunized if an emergency arises, consisting of a substantial outbreak as determined by the department.

[§252.041. Compulsory vaccination during a state of emergency.](#)

This section authorizes the Department of Health Services during a declared emergency to order an individual to receive a vaccination and isolate or quarantine any individual who refuses.

Administrative Code – Wisconsin Administrative Code; Department of Health Services (DHS); Chapter 144 Immunization of Students; DHS 144.04 Waiver for health reasons & DHS 144.05 Waiver for reason of religious or personal conviction.

[DHS 144.04. Waiver for health reasons.](#)

Requires a student to be exempt from immunization requirements upon certification by a physician that an immunization required under §252.04 of state statutes is or may be harmful to the health of the student.

This section requires the student to submit to the school or child care center written evidence of any required immunization that the student has previously received, along with the waiver form.

[DHS 144.05 Waiver for reason of religious or personal conviction](#)

Requires a student to be exempt from immunization requirements under §252.04 of state statutes if the student presents to the school or child care center a signed statement by the parent which declares an objection to immunization on religious or personal conviction grounds.

This section also requires written evidence of any required immunization that the student has previously received to be submitted to the school or child care center with the waiver form.

Wyoming – Religious and Medical Exemption, semi-restrictive medical (who can sign & restrictive process) and religious (restrictive process through department rule).

- Vaccine requirements and exemption waivers in statute apply to all public and private K-12 and child care; no higher education vaccine requirements or exemptions in state statute.
- Religious and Medical exemption waivers are provided for in the state statute.
- Exemption waiver requests for religious and medical waivers must be made to the State or County Health officer by mail, email, or fax.
- Waiver requests can be made on department forms provided or on a written statement by a physician for medical reasons and by a parent for religious reasons.
- Medical waiver request form [HERE](#).
- Religious waiver request form [HERE](#).
- State or County Health Officer can deny waiver requests.
- Exempt students can be excluded from school during outbreak.

State Statute – Wyoming Statutes Annotated; Title 21 Education; Chapter 4 Pupils; Article 3. Right to Attend School; Section 309. Mandatory immunizations for children attending schools; exceptions.

[§ 21-4-309 – Mandatory immunizations for children attending schools; exceptions.](#)

Requires written documentary proof of immunization for any person attending full or part-time, public or private, K-12 school in this state.

Requires exemption “waivers” to be authorized by the state or county health officer upon submission of written evidence of religious objection or medical contraindication to the administration of a vaccine.

Authorizes exempt students for whom a waiver has been issued to be excluded from school attendance in the presence of an outbreak of communicable disease as determined by the state or county health authority.

Wyoming Statutes Annotated; Title 14 Children; Chapter 4 Child Care Facilities; Article 1. Child Care Facilities Certification; Section 116. Mandatory immunizations for children attending child caring facilities.

[§ 14-4-116 – Mandatory immunizations for children attending child caring facilities.](#)

Requires all children over 18 months old attending or transferring into a child caring facility to be completely immunized in a similar manner to § 21-4-309, which provides religious and medical exemptions.

A “child caring facility” is defined as any person who operates a business to keep or care for any minor at the request of the parents, legal guardians, or an agency which is responsible for the child, and includes privately owned facilities.

Administrative Code – Wyoming Administrative Code; Department of Health; Subagency 0071 Wyoming Immunization Program; Chapter 3 Mandatory Immunizations for Children Attending Schools and Child Caring Facilities; Section 3-7 Waivers.

[048-3 Wyo. Code R. §§ 3-7- Waivers](#)

(a) Requires a waiver of an immunization requirement to be granted if written evidence of a religious objection is submitted to the State or County Health Officer by the child’s parent.

Written evidence of religious objection includes the following:

- (i) a complete and signed religious waiver form, found at the Public Health Department website [HERE](#); or
- (ii) a signed statement from the child’s parent, certifying religious objection of the administration of a specific immunization.

(b) Requires a waiver of an immunization requirement to be granted if written evidence of medical contraindication is submitted to the State or County Health Officer by the child’s parent.

Written evidence of medical contraindication includes:

- (i) a complete and signed medical waiver form, found at the Department website [HERE](#); or

(ii) a signed statement from a licensed physician certifying the medical contraindication to the administration of any required immunization that includes the date issued; the physician's name; signature; license number; and state of licensure; the child's name and date of birth; and a statement that a specific immunization is medically contraindicated.

(c) Requires the State or County Health Officer to grant a waiver to a child upon submission of written evidence of religious objection or medical contraindication.

This subsection also authorizes a State or County Health Officer to determine whether the submitted written evidence complies with sections (a) and (b) and whether to grant a waiver consistent with *Lepage v. State of Wyo., Dep't of Health*, 2001 WY 26, 18 P.3d 1177 (Wyo. 2001), and *Jones ex rel. Jones v. State of Wyo., Dep't of Health*, 2001 WY 28, 18 P.3d 1189 (Wyo. 2001).

(d) A waiver is only valid for immunizations required at the time of the waiver.

(e) A new waiver is required to cover any new immunization requirements added after the waiver is requested.

(f) A waiver issued by another state is not recognized in this state.

(g) Authorizes a child granted a religious or medical waiver to be excluded from school or child caring facility in the event of a "vaccine-preventable" disease outbreak.

(h) Authorizes a parent to request a review of any State or County Health Officer's decision on a request for a waiver.

(j) Requires all approved waivers to be recorded in the Wyoming state immunization information system unless the parent submits a "Use and Disclosure Restriction" form (F-12) found at the department's website [HERE](#).

Washington D.C. – Religious and Medical, semi-restrictive Medical (who can sign), and Religious restrictive process through health department rule.

- Vaccine requirements and exemptions apply to all students attending a DC public school, public charter school serving pre-K through 12, private, parochial, or independent school offering instruction at any level or grade from pre-K through 12, and also to students under age 26 attending any college or university.
- Religious and Medical exemptions are provided in DC Code.
- Requests for religious exemption must be emailed to the Department of Health at doh.immunization@dc.gov
- Medical exemption can be signed by a physician, nurse-practitioner, or from the physician or nurse practitioner's representative.
- Medical exemptions can be provided by a licensed health care provider on the Universal Health Certificate form [HERE](#) or on a written statement of the provider's choosing.

DC Code; Division VI. Education, Libraries, and Public Institutions; Title 38. Educational Institutions; Chapter 5. Immunization of School Students; Section 38-506. Exemption from immunization.

[§38-506. Exemption from immunization.](#)

An immunization from the list of immunizations shall not be required for attendance at a college, university, K-12 school, or child development facility by a student:

- (1) For whom the responsible person objects in good faith and in writing to the public health authorities that the immunization would violate the responsible person's religious beliefs; or
- (2) The public health authorities have a written certification from the student's physician or nurse-practitioner, or from the physician or nurse-practitioner's representative, that the immunization or treatment necessary to receive the immunization is medically inadvisable for the student.

DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR) Title 5. Education; Subtitle 5-A. Office of the State Superintendent of Education; Chapter 5-A1. Child Development Facilities; Licensing; Section 5-A152. Health, Safety, and Welfare: Required Health Examinations and Immunizations

[§152.10. Exemptions](#)

The following groups are exempted from receiving the immunizations required in Subsection 152.3:

- (a) children whose parents object on religious grounds; and
- (b) children whose medical condition requires that immunizations not be given or for whom immunizations are determined to be not medically advisable.

Additional Resources

[Link to a Homeschooling webpage](#) that lists which states require vaccinations for homeschooled children and whether or not the requirements are enforced **[HERE](#)**. This is a “pro-vaccine” page, but their info seems to be recently updated (post-COVID) and accurate based on what I found in the state statutes.

<https://hownowhomeschool.com/do-homeschoolers-need-to-be-vaccinated-weve-got-the-answer/>

[Link to CDC Contraindications and Precautions Page: Contraindications and Precautions | Vaccines & Immunizations | CDC](#)

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/imz-best-practices/contraindications-precautions.html?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/contraindications.html#cdc_report_pub_study_section_3-contraindications

[Link to National Conference of State Legislatures Guide](#) for State Vaccine Requirements for College Entry in each state, updated 2/3/2025. **[HERE](#)**

<https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-vaccine-requirements-for-college-entry>